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Skin Diver

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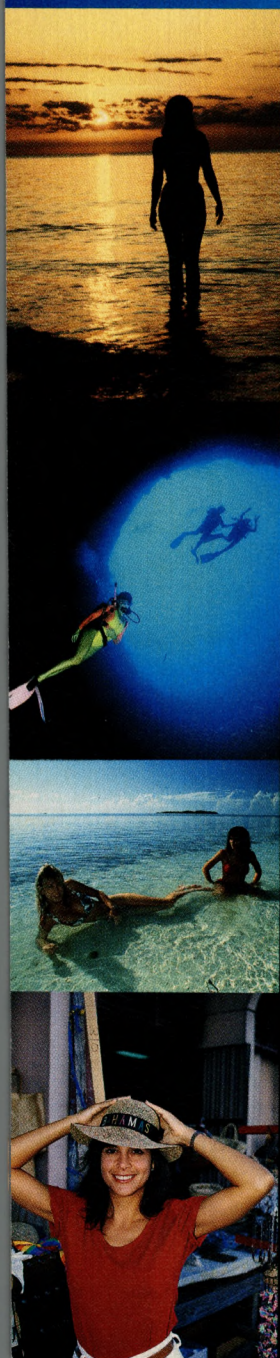


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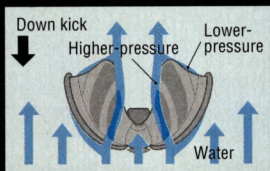


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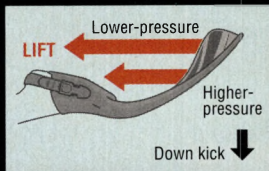
performance chart >>>

technical specs

Traditional fins only use repulsive force to create propulsion. This normally means that in order to create strong propulsion, maximum effort is required, resulting in muscle fatigue not only for beginners, women, and middle-aged divers, but professionals as well. Added to which, the body moves left and right in reaction to the kicking needed to move forward, thus reducing propulsion.



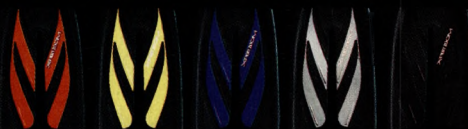
The SF-8 has a blade that is split down the middle, so it takes the shape shown in the diagram when kicked under water. This special blade shape creates propulsion (lift) by generating a pressure differential above and below the blade, in addition to the repulsive force created by kicking. The SF-8 is a fin that allows all divers to create propulsion using only a small bent-knee kick, with a light rhythm.



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At some point, we all gotta come up for air. RYAN ALLEN unzips diving apparel that has everyone smiling...even when they're out of the water.

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The chilled waters of the Great Lakes are crowded with well-preserved wrecks and serve as an underwater museum for divers like CRIS KOHL.

56 BERMUDA: WHERE SHIPS COME TO SINK
CLAY & MARTHA WISEMAN spend time with a shipwreck sleuth who uses sunken clues to solve the riddles of Bermuda's guilty waters.

70 SIX ISLANDS, EIGHT NIGHTS
Love hurts. At least for HEIDI DOUGLAS in Tahiti, where it's so painfully romantic that she finds herself caught up in a *ménage à trois* with a certain Jean-Pierre and Fifi.

78 THE ULTIMATE DIVE
DOUG PERRINE sinks to new levels (about 1,000 feet to be exact) on Grand Cayman's wall in the *Atlantis Deep Explorer* submarine.

92 THE GATHERING
In the soft coral kingdom of Fiji, DAVID FLEETHAM finds himself among a unique class of working divers, whose success is often driven by their love of the ocean.

ABOUT THE COVER:

A diver cruises the terrain of the *Lartington* in Bermuda.

PHOTO: CLAY WISEMAN

Background photo:

For divers, the name of this Lake Huron shipwreck says it all—*Joyland*.

PHOTO: CRIS KOHL

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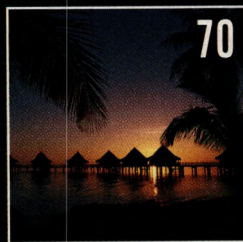
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BERMUDA This place is surrounded. Over 400 vessels have fallen to Bermuda's treacherous reefs, leaving a golden ring of wrecks—a diver's paradise—to be discovered. History wraps itself around each site like a blanket. And among the swirling masses of marine life and treacherous towering reefs, treasures of the past are brought to the present, just like magic. This place is surrounded. (pg 56)



CAYMAN Like Sherlock Holmes searches for answers to solve mysteries, divers search for the ultimate underwater experience. Armed with dive lights instead of

magnifying glasses, we dip beneath the blue horizon in hopes of finding something "unfound," interacting with a creature of solitude and solving the mystery of the deep. With the help of a deep sub, Doug Perrine attempted just that. Fairy tale-like Stalked Crinoids, rare black corals and larval crabs satisfied Perrine's quest at 1,000 feet. And although the ultimate dive was experienced, the mystery of the deep remains unsolved. (pg 78)



THE GREAT LAKES Think of Chicago, think Michigan Avenue, the John Hancock building, the "windy city." Think of Michigan, think Detroit, think Chrysler, think "motor city." Great diving isn't always in the forefront of our minds when the Great Lakes come up in conversation,

but it should be. Some of the best wreck diving can be found nudging the shores of these metropolises. A historical collage of ships that remain mostly intact due to freshwater conditions awaits divers year-round. And if you can stand the chilling thermoclines, think *Great Lakes, great diving*. (pg 52)



TAHITI Close your eyes; imagine the bluest water like glass reflecting a perfect rum-orange sunset. A thatched roof hut is like a private island where you and your companion are about to step out your front door and explore the bath-warm waters that are home to a plethora of marine life. Now open your eyes; the vision could be real and *Skin Diver* will bring it to you. (pg 70)

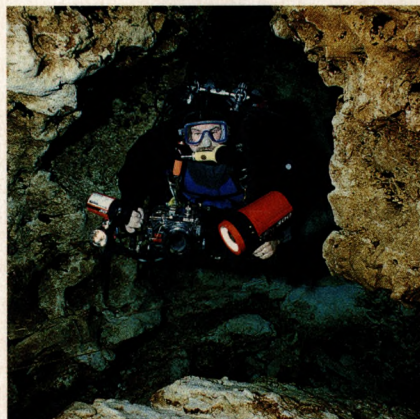


CRIS KOHL of Chicago, intrigued by shipwrecks after visiting Bermuda and the Florida



Keys in 1974, began exploring the Great Lakes. And over the past 20 years, Kohl has promoted the incredible freshwater wrecks of the Great Lakes by writing nine books, including his most recent, *The Great Lakes Diving Guide*, and many articles. A certified divemaster and full cave diver, his intense research, prize-winning underwater photography, vigor and sense of drama have made him a popular speaker at major scuba shows. 🐟

PETE NAWROCKY is a professional underwater photographer with a long history of working in a variety of environments. It is not uncommon to find



Pete capturing images for Dive Rite in a Florida cave, followed by tri-mix dives on a wreck off the Massachusetts coast. As do many photographers, he enjoys working with marine life. Although he was once the object of desire for an amorous octopus in Alaska, in this issue, he recounts a run-in with a cranky Goosefish off New York. 🐟

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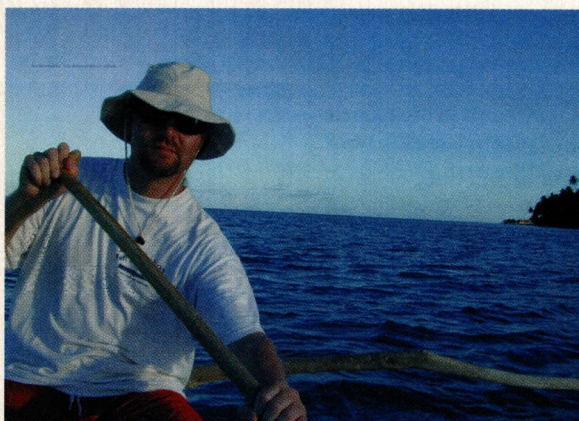
PHILOSOPHERS AND PHYSICISTS TELL US THERE IS ONE CONSTANT IN THE UNIVERSE: CHANGE. All things change; time and tide, it has been said, wait for no man—and this is especially true of shipwrecks immersed in water. But all water is not created equal. Saltwater is much more caustic and destructive to ships than freshwater. In saltwater, this constant state of change quickly erodes the metals and wood of sunken ships, while the many creatures of the sea work their alchemy to alter the crumbling mass into a thriving coral community that attracts life both large and small. Freshwater, on the other hand, preserves its prizes for a remarkable period of time. These sunken relics are truly ghost ships, locked in a moment that lacks finality, like a sentence that trails off without an end, slow to change.

This month, we celebrate final moments, misfortune and change by highlighting two of the world's most alluring shipwreck destinations: Bermuda and the Great Lakes. As destinations, they are almost polar opposites—Bermuda having a tropical appeal, with its pink beaches, swashbuckling treasure salvors and famous shorts; and the Great Lakes, known for its cold water, hardy divers and perfectly preserved ships. Both are wreck diver havens and to fully understand them we turned to the experts.

Cris Kohl, widely recognized as the world's preeminent Great Lakes wreck guru, taps into the pulse of the Great Lakes diving experience: wrecks, wrecks and more wrecks. Deep, shallow, somewhere in the middle, his comprehensive knowledge of this part of the world is nothing short of amazing. And describing the growing appeal of Great Lakes wreck diving he says, "Even divers from Florida are coming up to explore our wrecks." As I said: change.

The Constant of Change

To get to the heart of Bermuda, we sent Clay Wiseman there to spend time with that island's greatest living treasure hunter. If it glints in the sand and has value, Teddy Tucker will find it or is looking for it. The Bermuda shipwreck museum is filled with trinkets he discovered on the ships. And after talking to him, Clay said he wouldn't be surprised to find out he's buried treasure in some X-marks-the-spot secret location. But this island overflows with stories of treasure found and ships wrecked, some deliberately, on Bermuda's treacherous fringing reefs. And, gold still awaits the lucky explorer who arrives on the day the shifting sands change to expose that tell-tale glint. 🐟



TY SAWYER, EDITOR

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CONTRIBUTING EDITORS

ALFRED A. BOVE, M.D., PH.D.
ELLSWORTH BOYD • ANNA AND NED DeLOACH
FRED GARTH • PAUL HUMANN
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SKIN DIVER ONLINE

DARYL CARSON
EDITOR

EDITORIAL AND SALES OFFICES

6420 WILSHIRE BOULEVARD
LOS ANGELES, CA 90048-5515
Fax: (323) 782-2121
E-mail: skindiver@primediaccmmg.com

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CORPORATE OFFICES
745 FIFTH AVENUE
NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10151
(212) 745-0100

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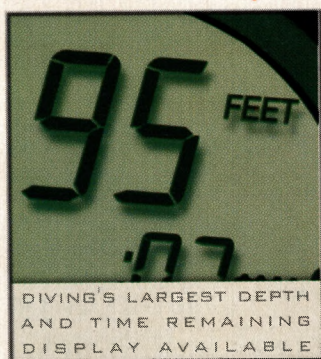
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Katherine Smith

dreamed of seeing

her image on the

cover of *Skin Diver*...

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Contest open to photographers of all levels. The editors of *Skin Diver* will select five finalist images. These images will be posted on *Skin Diver* Online by August 1, 2002, and *Skin Diver* readers will help select the winner. Runner-up photos will be featured in the December 2002 issue.

*For magazines mailed to subscribers only. Grand prize will include a first-time use payment of \$800. Each submission becomes property of *Skin Diver* magazine (photos will not be returned). *Skin Diver* is not responsible for lost or damaged submissions. Entries submitted without entry fee will be disqualified.

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MARKETING REPRESENTATIVES

LANCE FAHRNEY

(303) 670-9966 • fahrneyl@primediaccmmg.com

KATHY KNOLL

(323) 782-2538 • knollk@primediaccmmg.com

LORI LACHNICH

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(251) 968-3383 • wilkinsd@primediaccmmg.com

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(858) 488-8677 • douglash@primediaccmmg.com

AD SALES SUPPORT

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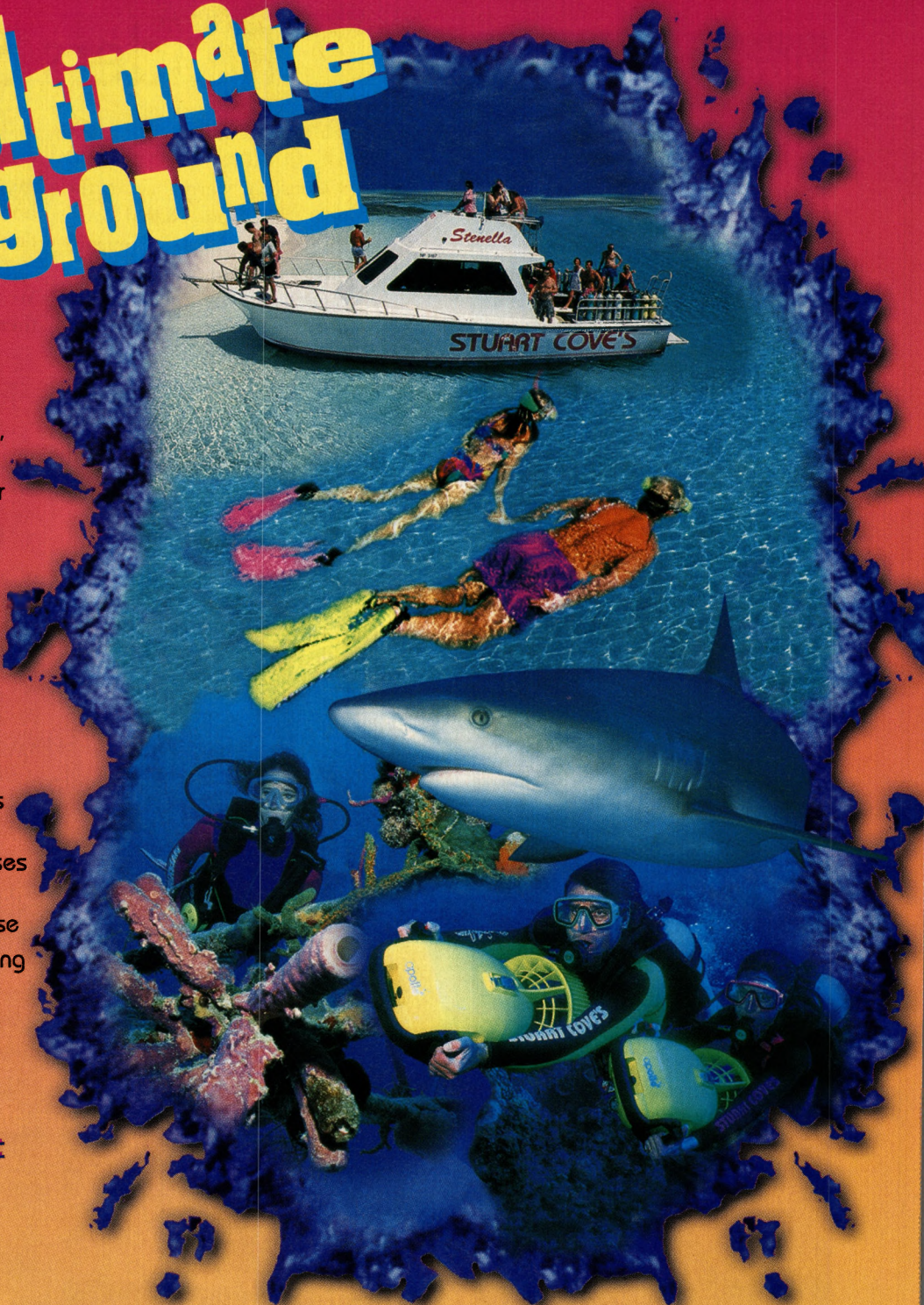
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LETTERS

Readers Speak Out

Someone With an Opinion

Cousteau worries about the poor. The poor should overthrow their dictators, practice birth control, and embrace capitalism. The rich countries didn't get there by accident.

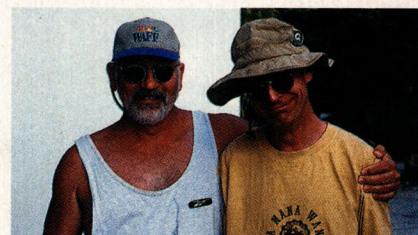
Let Cousteau donate his millions to develop alternative power for the poor. I prefer to spend mine in a more capitalistic manner.

—Lewis Larson, Winter Park, FL

Fair Coverage for Wet Old Farts

Hey, I liked the February issue, but fair is fair. How about some pics of the old guys and girls out there doing it

instead of perfect models with perfect everything. Get real! When we are diving, the last thing we think about is how we look. Well, maybe most of us don't...anyway, I can't remember seeing people like the pictures show. We're just a bunch of normals out there getting wet. Enclosed is a picture



of what a couple of old farts in Bonaire look like after 30 dives in a week.

—Carl Sampieri, via e-mail

Keeping It Close to Home

The 50 states article ["50 Dives in 50 States," March 2002] is great! With the economy the way it is, I'm sure a lot of divers will be looking closer to home. The time seems right to get people to spend their hard earned money right here in the U.S.A., and to help get the economy going. Thank you for your article.

—Capt. Bobby Cox, Morehead City, NC



A Proud Canadian Gets It Right

I've just read your recent issue of *Skin Diver*, and in the article "50 Dives in 50 States" there has been an error. Deer Island, which you claim is in Eastport, Maine, really is not! It is in New Brunswick, Canada, right on the border with Eastport.

—Scott Enso, via e-mail

Deeper Thoughts

"50 Dives in 50 States" (March 2002 issue) states that Clear Lake, OR, has a max depth of 45 feet.

Last summer, during a series of deep dives in Clear Lake, the max depth reached by any member of our group was 167 feet.

—L.D. Moravek, via e-mail

Another Local Dive Not to Miss

In your recent article ["50 Dives in 50 States"] I was surprised to see that one of Ohio's safest and larger quarries was not mentioned [Portage Quarry]. We've had an airplane in the quarry for over 15 years...[and] some of the largest fish in the state.... We have a [divemaster] on site...lots of boats, cars, an underwater silo and semi trailers, along with underwater mining sites. [Portage Quarry offers] 50 acres to play in and is easily accessible from I-75. Next time, check [us out].

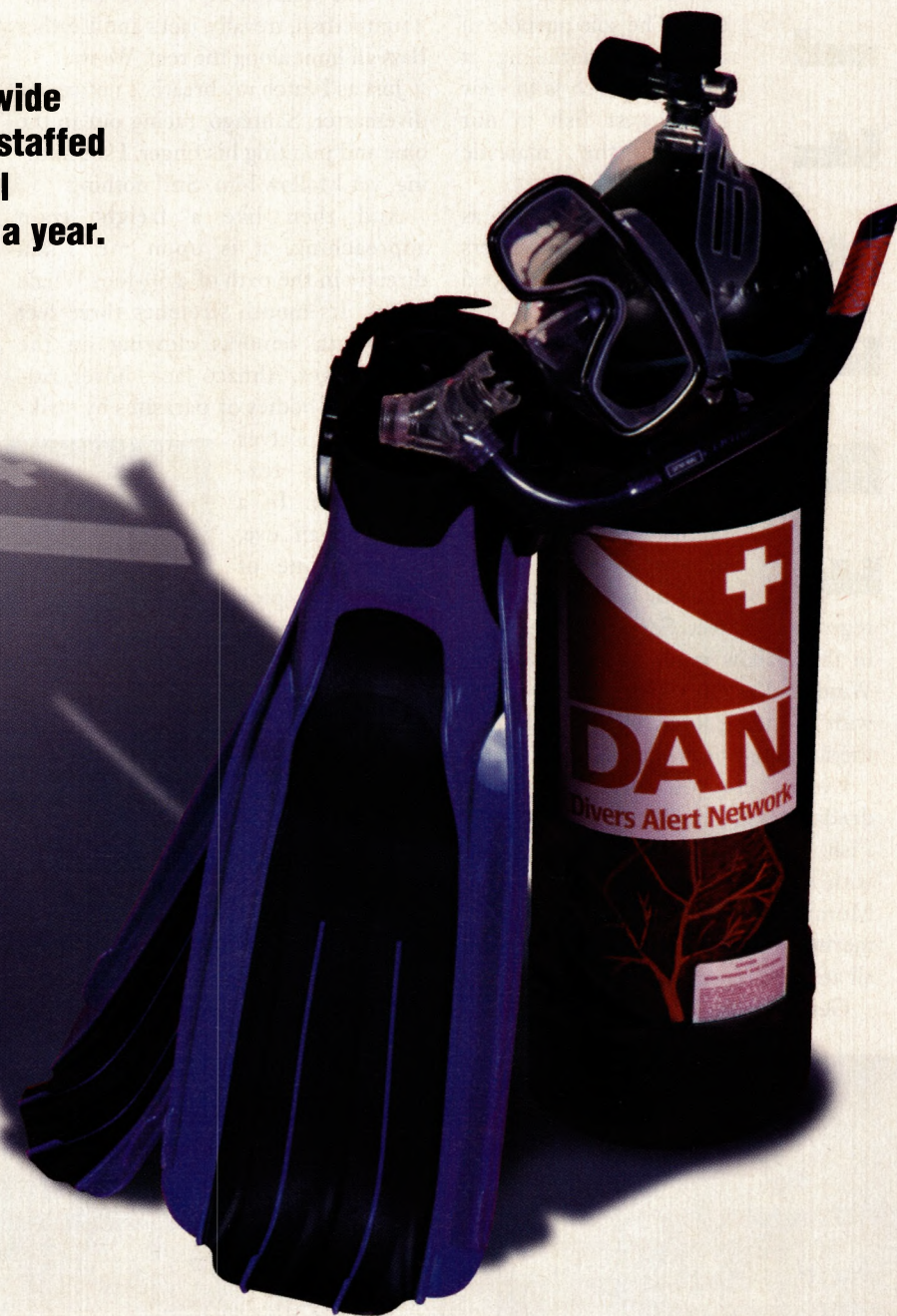
—Jeff Rice, Bowling Green, OH



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the darwin arch club by annie crawley

ONCE ONE JOINS, ONE IS a lifetime member. The initiation dive may last a mere 11 minutes, yet it will be remembered forever. The sole purpose of diving or snorkeling at Darwin's Arch is to view the largest fish in our oceans: the majestic Whale Shark.

Swimming as fast as our ears allow, nine divers have just been dropped off of a panga, 18 feet long, in the middle of the ocean, more than 600 miles off the Ecuadorian coast. Nobody could have prepared us for the explosion of marine life on this rock in the middle of nowhere.

Once we descend, we regroup at 30 feet. Serious danger waits in the shallow water next to the arch. Wind and ocean swells converge here with pounding force. Dive shallow and the surge may push you out of the ocean.

Everywhere you turn, fish. Hundreds upon hundreds of Creole Fish, and the volcanic rock is laden with scorpionfish and free swimming Moray Eels are everywhere. Hammerheads and Galapagos Sharks cruise all around.

Getting to the ledge at 60 feet is chal-

lenging. The current runs crazy, and we must drag ourselves across a barnacle-encrusted wall, carefully grabbing the rock structure and not the crustaceans.

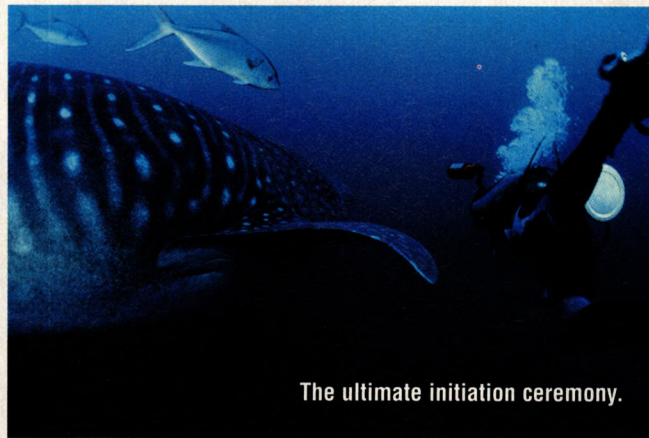
A lone dolphin zips along the wall. Trumpetfish, trevally, jacks and Leather Bass all hunt along the reef. We wait.

Just as I catch my breath, I notice our divemaster, Santiago, racing out to the blue and pointing his finger. I see nothing, yet I follow him. Still nothing.

And then like a freight train approaching, it is upon me. I am directly in the path of a 50-foot Whale Shark. Its mouth stretches three feet wide with remoras clinging on the inside edges. Almaco Jacks hover, riding their bodies of parasites by striking themselves against its textured skin. In a blink of an eye, I watch one of these jacks pick a remora right out of the Whale Shark's mouth! Unbelievably, I am staring directly into the eye of the biggest fish in the ocean. It watches me as it cruises past. Time ceases even though I am swimming as fast as I possibly can. At these speeds, I watch my buddy's bubbles travel horizontally in

the water. I slow down and watch as the spotted textured body zooms past me. Each animal has a unique pattern, with a tail more than 10 feet high and a body up to 55 feet long. They appear to hang motionless in the water, when in reality, a simple flick of their tail propels them at such speeds that I have seen dolphins riding their bow wave. I let it zip by and watch its tail wiggle slowly into the distance. I can't help but think it is the end, yet it is only the beginning.

My adrenaline is pumping as I turn around to check if anyone from the group is behind me. Everyone is racing into the blue. I realize then, there is another Whale Shark approaching,



The ultimate initiation ceremony.

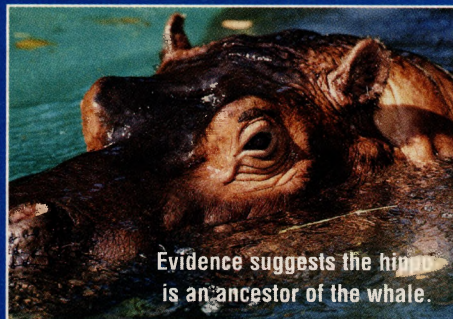
and I'm off, another race. Everyone who sets eyes on one of these beauties is a member forever. Welcome to the Darwin Arch Club. 🐳

Whale of a Discovery

by Ann Coccagna & Georgienne Bradley

YOUR AVERAGE ANKLEBONE ISN'T TOO EXCITING, BUT A 50-million-year-old foot fossil uncovered in Pakistan now proves that a whale descended from a land-based critter called an even-toed ungulate.

About 320 million years ago, animals started slipping out of the sea to become land-dwelling creatures. But, eventually, some went back into the ocean. Researchers are now confirming that today's whale is the descendant of a plant-munching land animal classified as even-toed ungulate (e.g. hippos, deer, sheep, pigs, etc.). This shatters



Evidence suggests the hippo is an ancestor of the whale.

old dental record theory that whales descended from hoofed, carnivorous mammals known as mesonychians.

The original whale creature didn't look like Bambi, but paleontologists believe it may have appeared similar to a little deer with a head shaped like a whale's. They had ankles and feet, but didn't move around very well on land. Then the deer-looking creature got bigger, lost its ability to walk and eventually slipped back into the ocean where the body evolved into a Shamu physique.

In Pakistan, two independent discov-

ONE OF THE MOST DARING CAVE DIVING EXPEDITIONS in recent history was undertaken by Women Divers Hall Of Fame Member, Jill Heinerth. Jill, a beautiful super-athlete and graphic design artist from Toronto, Canada, along with her husband, Paul, and cinematographer Wes Skiles, explored the inner reaches and underbellies of icebergs in Antarctica. They were the first people to use closed-circuit rebreathers in this environment, and the first to cave dive inside an iceberg.

"While diving 130 feet beneath the surface and 1,000 feet inside a crevasse in an iceberg," Jill recalls, "we encountered an unexpected strong current, making it nearly impossible to swim. For awhile, it was pretty dicey!" Jill's two-month adventure will be broadcast on an A&E television special and was chronicled in *National Geographic* [December 2001]. Jill was also featured in *Sports Illustrated for Women*.

Even before the Antarctic Ice Expedition, Jill was no stranger to challenging diving. Throughout her diving career, over 700 of Jill's 2,800 dives have been made in caves, resulting in many "firsts." In May 1995, she and Paul participated in the U.S. Deep Caving Team Expedition to Huautla, Mexico, with Dr. Bill Stone. Through late 1995 and 1996 she became involved in further exploration in Mexico as the U.S. Director for the Ejido Jacinto Pat Expedition in Akumal. In 1998, she and Paul were selected as lead divers for the U.S. Deep Caving Team exploration of Wakulla Springs. During this project, Jill completed a mission that took her deeper into a cave at extreme depths than any woman in history—a

300-foot depth and a penetration of nearly 10,000 feet with a 5-hour bottom time and 16 hours of decompression. Her 21-hour mission was featured in a National Geographic Explorer Television program. This landmark project of the U.S. Deep Caving Team brought technical diving into the next century with the use of rebreathers and revolutionary sonar mapping devices.

When she isn't on an expedition, Jill teaches courses in mixed gas and technical diving and rebreathers, and presents symposiums in France, England and all over North America. She is a technical advisor to PADI and IANTD. "Contrary to popular belief," Jill explains, "women are at an advantage in technical diving. Even if they aren't as physically strong as their male buddies, they are much more diligent and patient with the learning process."

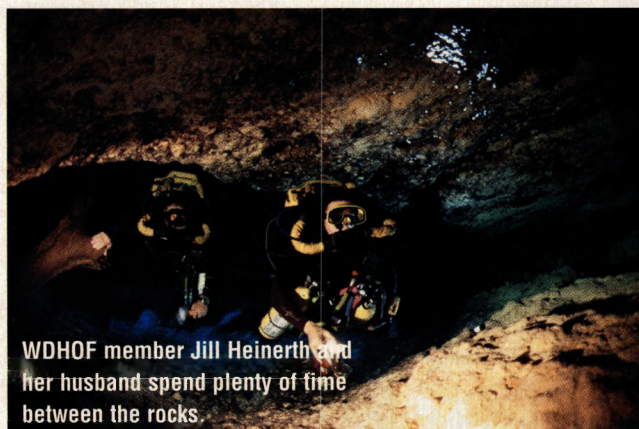
Jill also produces adventure television programs and documentaries. From under the ice in Antarctica, to the jungles of the Yucatan, to a swimming pool with a live alligator, her filming assignments have taken her to some unusual locations. Her current project involves repelling down through an ancient well into a magical underwater world full of Mayan cultural artifacts and human bones. When asked what dive expeditions

she'd like to tackle next Jill replied, "Since I did Antarctica, I guess it would be only fitting to dive the North Pole!"

In March 2000, Jill was inducted into the Women Divers Hall of Fame at the Beneath the Sea Dive Symposium. The following year she was recognized as Canadian Technical Diver of the Year and was inducted as a Fellow of the National Speleological Society. 🐟

What Lies Beneath

by Hillary Viders, Ph.D.



eries made by paleontologists threw light on this unlikely whale tale. Jans Thewissen, a paleontologist from Northeastern Ohio University's College of Medicine, found a fossil from the first stage when the creature looked like a tiny deer (*Nature Magazine*, 09/20/01). The anklebone was a type found in even-toed ungulates: artiodactyls.

Along the shores of a defunct sea in Pakistan, scientist Philip Gingerich found a couple of skeletons of the same creature during the period of its last hoorah on dry land (*Science Magazine* 09/21/01). These discoveries marked the first time scientists had found specimens with anklebones intact. The bones were distinctly similar to an artiodactyl's. Classified as *Rodhocetus* and *Artiocetus*, these whale-like mammals roamed the shoreline approximately 47 million years ago. They were about the size of a sea lion with similar proportions. They

could probably shimmy clumsily on shore like a sea lion, having lost the ability to walk. The appendages had started forming into flippers.

The proof of a relationship between cetaceans (whales, porpoises, dolphins) and artiodactyls (hoofed herbivores with an even number of toes) isn't a complete shocker. Prior to the paleontologists' discoveries, molecular biologists were on the clue trail. They were studying gene inheritance patterns in modern whales and noticed a striking similarity to genetics in even-toed ungulates. In fact, some scientists at the University of California, Riverside believe whales are most closely related to the hippopotamus. Most paleontologists wouldn't buy into the idea of whales descending from artiodactyls instead of mesonychians, but this whale of an anklebone discovery changed a few minds. 🐟

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Spawning Peppermint Basslets

BY NED AND ANNA DeLOACH WITH PAUL HUMANN

THE MOST COMMON REPRODUCTIVE STRATEGY OF REEF FISH IS known as pelagic or broadcast spawning. A few fish reproduce in groups, which can number in the hundreds. However, the majority of species spawn in isolated male/female pairs. Spawning events of all types are preceded by extended courtship, which provides time for the female's eggs to hydrate to an optimal level before release.

The male prompts the process by intensifying colors, spreading fins, twitching and repeatedly nudging his partner's anal area to determine her readiness to spawn. When all is right, the pairs slowly position themselves side-by-side, jet upward into open water and, in an explosive discharge, simultaneously expel a cloud of gametes

(eggs and sperm). The fertilized eggs, carried by the currents, drift off into the open ocean on one of the most perilous odysseys in the animal kingdom. Weeks later, possibly hundreds of miles from their origins, the few bits of life that survive settle to a shallow sea floor and begin life as juveniles.

It is always fascinating to encounter courtship and spawning behavior in the wild, but when the animals are rarely sighted species, such as the cryptic Peppermint Basslet, the affair is even more thrilling.

On a sunset dive in Belize, I spotted a pair of the typically solitary, 3-inch basslets hovering close together in the open just above a stand of finger coral. I immediately suspected a tryst.

The beam from my hand light sent the fish darting for cover. After extinguishing the light, they reappeared. One fish held its head high and both twitched repeatedly. Ever so slowly, they moved together until the sides of their heads touched. Following a pause, they rose calmly for a body length before rocketing up and popping apart inside a puff of gametes. *Bravo!* 🐟

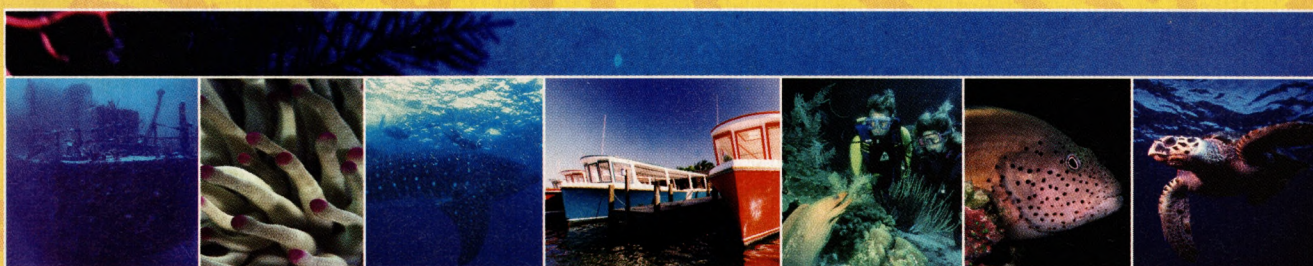
WHERE TO FIND THEM

Peppermint Basslets (*Liopropoma rubre*) hide inside caves and under ledge overhangs from 10 to 140 feet of depth in the Caribbean Basin, South Florida and Bermuda.

Two Peppermint Basslets caught in the act.



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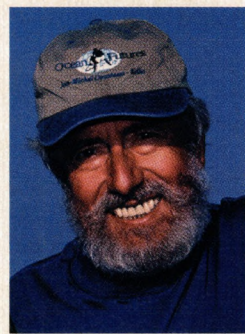
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Taking a Stake in Protecting Coral Reefs

BY JEAN-MICHEL COUSTEAU

AS DIVERS, WE KNOW FIRSTHAND about threats to coral reefs. We see the broken heads from irresponsible divers and boats. We notice changes in turbidity that choke corals. We see how nutrients can feed the growth of algae that take over healthy reefs. And if we return year after year to our favorite dive sites, chances are we have noticed the effects of bleaching, driven, as some suspect, by global

warming. And every now and then, the news attracts the attention of nondivers. The Year of the Reef and Year of the Ocean publicized the plight of this important marine ecosystem.

But despite their occasional prominence in the news, reefs continued to decline. Part of the problem is that reefs are seldom studied broadly. In fact, very few are studied at all. For many years, there was no

large, all-encompassing survey that quantified the damage, put a price tag on it, and packaged the information in a way that policymakers could understand and act upon.

That has changed.

Reefs at Risk in Southeast Asia is a comprehensive study by the World Resources Institute, United Nations Environment Program, The World Fish Center and the International Coral Reef Action Network.

It analyzes threats, synthesizes known data, and uses new computer models to arrive at some very disturbing conclusions.

We divers know that reefs are vulnerable. But it probably comes as a surprise to most readers that only 8 percent of the world's coral reefs enjoy any form of protection. Of these, the report finds only 14 percent adequately protected, while in some 86 percent, the protection is either partial or ineffective.

In light of these numbers, it's easy to point to a host of guilty parties. WRI spends more time addressing what can be done to stop the decline. The report recommends expanding protected areas and managing them better, reducing overfishing and regulating the commerce in living reef creatures.

Reef-check and other locally-based strategies seem extremely effective to me. Not only do they assist sport divers in learning the basics of eco-diving, they also establish a sense of stakeholding. This is

Forests of coral reefs, which provide shelter and food for many marine animals, risk destruction.

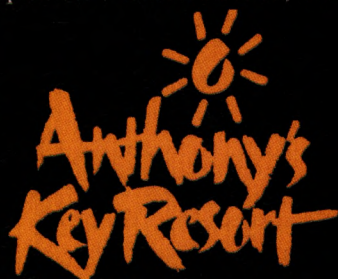


PHOTO: TOM ORDWAY

ENVIRONMENT

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ENVIRONMENT

very important; for if people have an emotional investment, they will conserve.

At the same time, divers from wealthy countries must not return from holiday and think that they have done all they could for reefs while in the tropics. Some problems, like global warming, are rooted not in the equatorial latitudes, but in industrial

nations. The good news is that most tourists are from these countries and can actively protect coral reefs from afar.

We can work to reduce emissions and support those policies that reduce our dependence on fossil fuels.

We can also make sure that we support programs that address overpopulation. This trend continues to stress the global environment and contribute to global warming.

The rate of growth has slowed, but we are still adding 80 million people to the human family each year, a trend that will continue for the next several decades. Most of this growth is in the poorest parts of the world, and much of it ends up in swollen mega cities of the coastal zones. Here, near-shore marine environments are stressed beyond the point of no return. Not only is a sustainable infrastructure—potable water, sewage treatment—usually lacking in part or entirely, but the lure of exploiting the riches of the sea too often proves irresistible. Especially when the markets of wealthier nations are so lucrative, so indiscriminating, so insatiable.

In Southeast Asia, the primary targets are coral reefs. Fish for the restaurant and aquarium trades are the chief takings. And what is left behind is less able to sustain life with each passing “harvest.”

Tourism is said to be a good, sustain-

able alternative. But most divers have seen lots of environmentally insensitive tourist development: mangroves razed for beach access; reefs dynamited for building material; sewage dumped in nearshore coral canyons.

Tourism can, and will, do a better job of relieving the economic pressures on coastal people, but it must be careful not to undermine long-term prosperity by killing the golden goose of coral reefs.

The United Nations Development Program estimates that annual losses due to damaged reefs total \$2.5 billion in the Philippines and even more in Indonesia. These countries should be enjoying the benefits of possessing three-quarters of all Southeast Asian reefs; instead, due to a lack of sound management, these

ecosystems could become liabilities.

Divers have many roles to play. They can patronize responsible tourist enterprises; they can purchase fish only from sustainable programs; they can make known their observations of declining reefs in letters to their editors. And, they can

Reef-check and other locally-based strategies seem extremely effective to me. Not only do they assist sport divers in learning the basics of eco-diving, they establish a sense of stakeholding.

THE NUMBERS DON'T LIE:

- 88% of Southeast Asia's reefs are threatened
- 64% are overfished
- 56% are endangered by destructive extraction methods, such as dynamite fishing
- 25% are imperiled by coastal development
- 20% are suffering from the effects of deforestation and agricultural runoff

help others make the connections between the gas pump and the coral reef. 🐟

To purchase or download *Reefs at Risk* in Southeast Asia, visit www.wri.org/wri/reefsatrisk/reefriskseasia.html.

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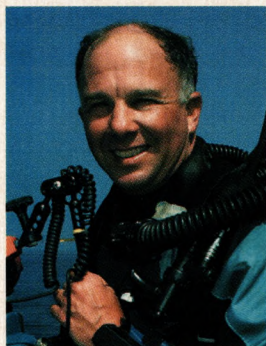
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Shedding Some Light on Strobes

BY MARTY SNYDERMAN

ASK THE PRO



What strobe do you recommend for advanced underwater photographers? —Tom B., Gadsden, AL

THERE IS NO ONE RIGHT ANSWER to Tom's question. What is right for Tom depends on how he dives and what he wants to accomplish in photographic terms. As an advanced photographer, Tom knows that strobes simultaneously provide light for exposure, while enabling him to "paint" colors into the foreground subjects of his images; and he knows his budget and whether he expects to be using one or two strobes. Given these assumptions, here are some other factors that you, like Tom, will want to consider.

Consider where and how you expect to dive so you can choose between strobes that use disposable batteries and those that use rechargeable batteries. If you spend time in remote areas where the supply of electricity is not available or reliable, consider the benefits offered by strobes that are powered by disposable batteries. On the other hand, if you are likely to have access to a reliable supply of electricity, then strobes that use rechargeable batteries, or battery packs, might be a better choice. In many scenarios, carrying spares will give you plen-

ty of battery power for multiple hours of shooting in remote areas. Be aware that strobes accommodating disposable batteries are likely to allow the use of rechargeable batteries as well, but some strobes only accept rechargeable battery packs. That could be a problem in some remote areas.

Another major factor to consider is the type of photographs you want to create. For macro images, the intensity of the beam emitted by a strobe is critical, because often you want to maximize your depth-of-field. This means the more powerful the strobe, the better. You can compare the intensity of the emitted light by comparing guide numbers (not watt seconds) of various strobes. Also, smaller is usually better in the macro world, because you will probably be working in the tight confines of reef systems.

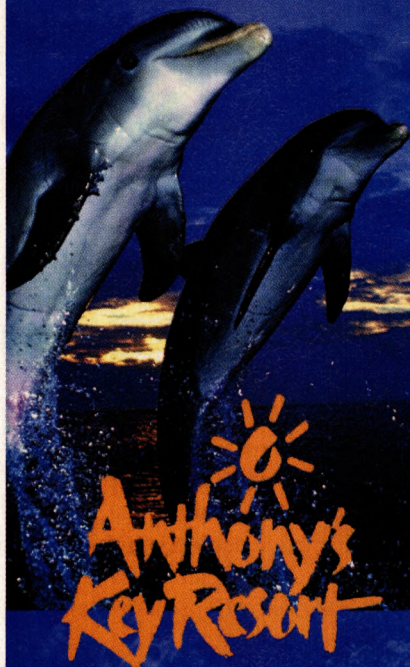
For wide-angle photography, you will want strobes that offer multiple power settings, so you can "balance" the intensity of the light emitted by your strobe with the intensity of sunlight in any given shooting situation. The best strobes for covering wide-angle lenses are usually larger than macro



The fine details and vibrant colors of this scorpionfish could not have been properly photographed without the use of a strobe.

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ASK THE PRO

strobes. Although you often gain power (one to two f/stops), the increased size is primarily due to the need to create a wide beam angle. You need to accept the added size and weight to gain the desired features.

Recycle time is a very important consideration. The shorter the recycle time, the better your chance to bracket the exposure of moving subjects and to com-

pose a variety of frames before subjects swim away.

If you use a prosumer digital camera, you want your strobe to have the option of low power settings to avoid overexposing foreground subjects, as the lenses on most prosumer digital cameras don't close down as small as most film lenses. The rheostat-like control of some new digital strobes is an extremely valuable feature for digital shooters. 🐟

Getting Started: Going Wide and Digital

MANY PROSUMER DIGITAL STILL cameras come with a zoom lens. As a rule, these lenses have a field of view and a zoom range that is the equivalent of a 35 mm to 105 mm zoom lens in the world of film-based 35 mm still cameras. However, instead of stating a 35 mm equivalency or the range of the field of view in terms of the varying focal lengths, a digital zoom lens is often described as a 3X or 4X lens, a description that defines the relationship between the widest and most narrow angles of view.

While the zoom range of most 3X and 4X digital cameras is quite good, in terms of both the angle of view and the length of the zoom for topside photography, most of the lenses are not as wide as we would like for underwater work. As is the case with film cameras, in order to record a high-quality wide-angle scene with a digital camera, you want to get as close to your foreground subjects as possible and use a wide-angle lens.

Recognizing that the field of view of the lenses on most prosumer digital cameras is not as wide as we'd like, several manufacturers have developed wide-angle adapters, which help alleviate this problem. The Canon

PowerShot S300 Digital Elph distributed by Sea & Sea, allows the use of Sea & Sea's 16 mm and 20 mm Wide Angle Conversion Lenses to widen the field of view to accommodate wide-angle shooting. Light and Motion offers the Wetmate Ultra Wide-Angle Lens, which provides a 100-degree angle of view and the Tetra Wide-Angle Lens with an 80-degree angle of view, when used with



Beautiful wide-angle shots are possible with digital cameras.

most Olympus C-series cameras (Olympus C-4040 is the latest model) and their Tetra housing. The Inon Wide-Angle Lens, as well as Sea & Sea's Wide-Angle Conversion Lens .56X, can be used with a variety of Ikelite housings for a selection of digital cameras to accommodate the desire to go wide. The angle of view achieved with these adapters varies with the angle of view that can be attained with various zoom lenses on the cameras being housed.

WANT TO LEARN MORE ABOUT UNDERWATER PHOTOGRAPHY?

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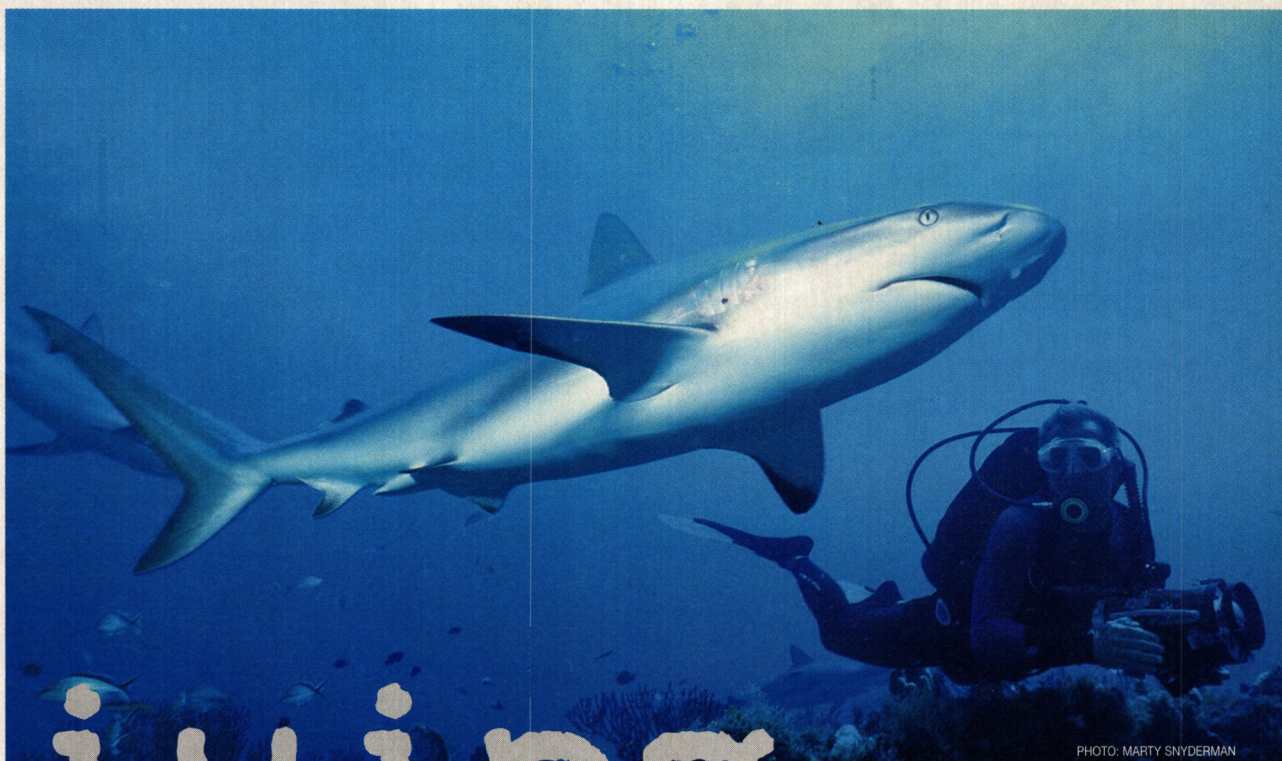


PHOTO: MARTY SNYDERMAN

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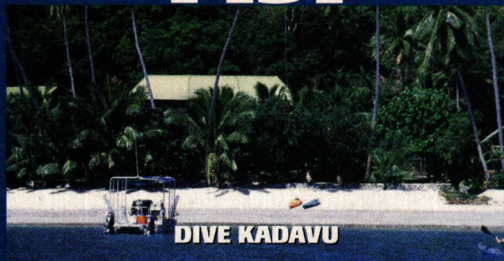


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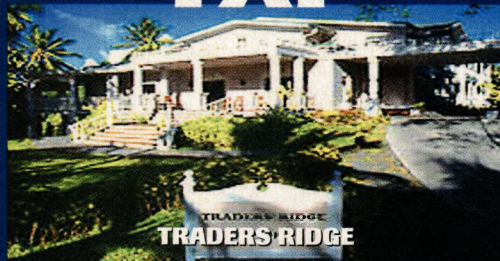
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Art and Artists, Underwater, Part 1

BY PHIL NUYTTEN



AUSTRALIANS RON AND Val Taylor are a husband and wife diving team who redefine the phrase: "Legends in their own time." If you have been living in a small cave in the high Himalayas or confined to an institute for the past 45 years, then I direct you to log onto the ol' debbil Internet, fire up your favorite search engine and search "Val Ron Taylor Shark." You will be rewarded with more interesting pages than you can shake your digeridoo at! There are no Australian divers who don't know them—*none*. I was in Sydney a few

many decades of practice. He works in an airy studio structure adjacent to the Taylor house, which is in a quiet area just outside Sydney. As I walked through the garden to his studio, Valerie waved at the brightly colored grifters in her birdfeeder and said, "They make a bloody awful noise, but I love them."

Ron has recently switched from analog to digital film editing, and the studio now contains the multi-gig storage towers and the large high-resolution monitors, indicating that he is fully committed. At one end of a long edit bench, Ron brushed his hand along the top of a massive solid aluminum, made-in-Germany, 16 mm/35 mm, 6-plate, film editing machine. "Hard to chuck it," he said wistfully, "such beautiful workmanship, though I'll probably never use it again, now that I've converted all our old stuff to digital tape."

If Ron is quiet, then Val is the opposite: laughing, poking gently with a sly, acerbic, sense of humor. In their films, Ron is both cameraman and straight man to Val's dry wit. They share film credits, but Val readily acknowledges that Ron is the technician, the filmmaker. Making moving images is their "day job," and they do it exceptionally well.

But Valerie has another bright facet: she is an exceptionally gifted painter. She portrays the undersea world in different ways—sometimes in single, minimal strokes that define line and form and produce an immediate sense of recognition from fellow divers. On the other hand, some of her large paintings are photographically realistic portraits of the creatures of the sea; work that rivals the best of famous surface naturalist artists.

But her pieces that make me smile most with delight are from a whimsical enchanted undersea world that exists only in her mind. Val did these fantastic watercolors, originally, to illustrate her children's stories. They were immediately successful and, at the request of readers, were reproduced as a series of limited edition prints. Each print is checked by Val's critical eye

before being titled, signed and numbered by hand.

The Taylors' house is filled with the originals of her work, as well as the art of others. A strikingly accurate portrait of a shark (painted by Val as a birthday gift to Ron) hangs next to a fish-tailed sea-nymph. These pictures produce a rich swirl of colors and textures, intermittently studded with Ron and Val's photographic prints.

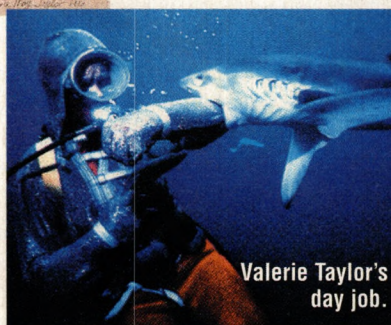
Val speaks nonchalantly about her work, but you don't



But [Valerie Taylor's] pieces that make me smile most with delight are from a whimsical enchanted undersea world that exists only in her mind.

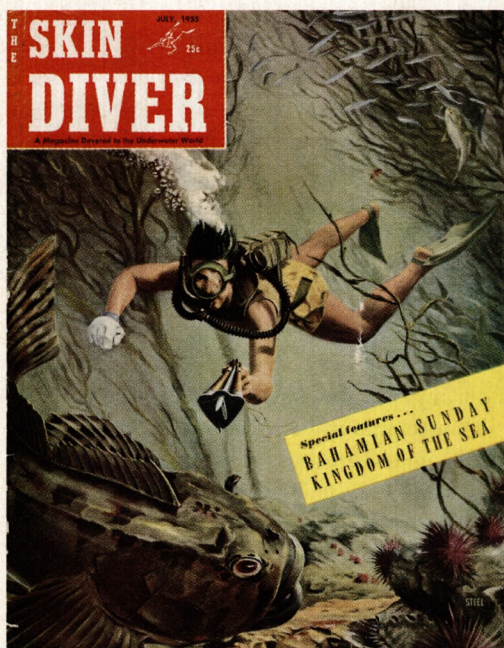
months ago, and I watched a sold out auditorium rise to their feet, clapping nonstop, as Ron and Val stood onstage, smiling. They belong to Australia—and through their internationally acclaimed films, videos, stills, books and appearances, they belong to all of us in the underwater world.

Ron Taylor is quiet and reserved, almost shy. He expresses himself best in his moving and still images, carefully blending science, education and adventure with a skill developed from



have to be a medium to sense that there is a fierce joy in her ability to create such images—to have the skills to allow others to see through her eyes. As my wife has quietly said, “How wonderful.” What a genuine pleasure it’s been over the years to be moved, again and again, by the product of Val’s talents and visions. You may never get to meet her, or dive with her and Ron, but if you can look at her art, it will give you a small insight into her character. And so it is with art.

When I left Australia, en route to a few days diving in Fiji, I thought a lot about underwater art and diving artists in general. Reaching way back, I thought about the late John Steel. Steel (1921–1998) was the first artist to have a painting appear on the cover of *Skin Diver*. The October 1953 cover shows a spearfisherman about to shish-kabob a California cabezon (Giant Marbled Sculpin). The painting is unique for its unusual perspective and the accurate depiction of the equipment of the time. Since SDM was still a black-and-white format, the cover appeared in a greenish hue and was republished in July 1955



in the full, rich colors of its original paint. Cover paintings were popular in

I was taken with [John Steel’s] work in the 1950s and hoped that one day I might own some of it. That turned out to be one of those small ambitions that are so sweet when they are finally realized.

that we divers could physically see, but that the cameras, film and techniques of the day couldn’t yet capture. John Steel went on to paint 20 more covers for this magazine, as well as various covers for other underwater publications. Because of the body of this accurately dated work, it’s possible to see the distinct maturation of his technique as the years passed. I was taken with his work in the 1950s and hoped that one day I might own some of it. That turned out to be one of those small ambitions that are so sweet when they are finally realized. Steel’s work is eagerly sought by collectors, today, and his originals and lithographs fetch prices that would have astounded him then—but, of course, that is often the case with artists and their art.

As the Fiji express droned on, my thoughts turned to the hundreds of thousands, or even swillions, of avid scuba divers whose walls are not filled with underwater art. Where, I wondered, is the work of skilled professionals like Val Taylor and

the many others. A number of names spring to mind, artists whose works I personally admire and have on my walls: Andre Laban, Pascal Lecocq, Michelle Gagnan, Ron Cobb, Clyde Olcott and many others.

Why is it that fervent divers who love the undersea world with a very real passion don’t seem to indulge themselves in art that is specifically created with them in mind? A CD for the eyes, pixels of brush strokes instead of electrons.

The more I thought about it, the more one possible answer stood out in my mind—perhaps a lot of divers simply don’t know about them.

Well, *Holy Canvas, Batperson!* I say to myself (I often affect various accents and expressions when speaking privately to meinzelf—but I am always socially correct). *Maybe I could help with that.* In the next couple of Newt articles, I propose to look at an eclectic mix of underwater art and artists. Please bear in mind that the illustrations that you see reproduced here simply do not do the originals justice (like a smooch over the phone can’t compare to the real thing!).

Another thing to bear in mind is that the artists mentioned here and in the next couple of issues are the ones that I, personally, am passionate about. But that’s the glorious thing about art, generally, it is so very personal, one man’s Dali is another man’s Al Capp. You may think that the artists that I get all trembly about actually suck big time, but, somehow, I don’t think that will be the case.

the early days of underwater magazines, because the artist could portray those scenes

In the meantime, start sniffin’ around on your own. If you find something you like, buy it! It is an immutable law of nature that you will never regret paying too much for something you really like, but you will never, never, forget a piece of art that you really wanted but thought it was a little too high at the time! Oh, man ...have I been there!

And now, back to that talented Ozzie “Sheila” (female) that we started with: If you’re interested in the work of Valerie Taylor, fax her in Oz (Australia) at (61) 2 94174200, for availability, information, titles and prices. (Nope, I don’t get no Newt commissions.) And, if you are a die-hard “Shark Week” fan, get a copy of the Taylors’ book *Great Shark Writings*. Peter Benchley (*Jaws*) said: “One of the book’s many virtues is that the Taylors have demonstrated that the truth about sharks is spectacular enough. Sharks don’t need a boost from fiction.”

And, stay tuned for Part 2 with Andre Laban and Pascal Lecocq, which will, God-willing, appear in the October issue. 🐟

For an overview of John Steel’s life and work, check out *Historic Diver* (# 19, Spring, 1999 issue), the quarterly publication of the *Historic Diving Society—USA*. It is available as a back issue at the HDS website: www.hds.org.

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1. Name one of the Cayman Islands "Sister Islands."

2. What is the name of the world's most famous spot to swim with the stingrays? (Hint: You'll find it in the waters around Grand Cayman.)

3. What year did Christopher Columbus discover the Cayman Islands? (Hint: Check out "Cayman by the Numbers.")

See official rules on back for details including entry methods and eligibility requirements.

OFFICIAL RULES

NO PURCHASE NECESSARY TO ENTER OR WIN A PRIZE. A PURCHASE WILL NOT IMPROVE YOUR CHANCES OF WINNING.

1. Sweepstakes open to legal residents of the US and Wash. DC age 18 or older. The Cayman Islands H2GO "Find your element" Sweepstakes ("Sweepstakes") begins at 12:01 a.m. Eastern Time (ET) on 5/1/02 and ends 11:59 p.m. (ET) on 10/31/02 ("Entry Period"). There will be six monthly drawings during the Entry Period. HOW TO ENTER: There are three methods of entry. Entry Method #1: To enter online, visit the www.caymanislands.ky/h2go web site and follow all online entry instructions, including completing and submitting the online entry form and answering all sweepstakes questions. Online entries must be received by 11:59 PM (ET) on 10/31/02. Entry Method #2: To enter by mail with an official entry form, hand print your name, address, telephone number, e-mail address and your answers to the sweepstakes questions requested on official entry form, insert in envelope and mail to P.O. Box address in Method #3. Entry Method #3: To enter by mail without an official entry form, hand-print your name, address, telephone number, email address and your answers to the sweepstakes questions on a postcard and mail to: The Cayman Islands H2GO "Find Your Element" Sweepstakes, P.O. Box 9179, Medford, NY 11763-9179. All mail-in entries must be postmarked by 10/31/02 and received by 11/7/02. Answers to the sweepstakes questions can be found online at www.caymanislands.ky/h2go or in our H2GO Vacation Planning Guide. To obtain a free guide, call 1-800-4-CAYMAN, ext. 0 between 9 AM 5 PM (ET) during Mon. - Fri. [All requests for guides must be received by 5 PM (ET) on 9/27/02.] To be eligible for a given monthly drawing, answers to the sweepstakes questions must be correct. All entries become the property of Sponsor and will not be returned or acknowledged. Limit: One received email or mail-in entry per person per month. In the event of a dispute over the identity of an online entrant, entry will be deemed submitted by the holder of the e-mail account. Mass entries or entries generated by a script, macro or use of automated devices will be disqualified. No mechanical reproductions permitted. Photocopied or incomplete entries are void. PRIZES/ODDS: Six (6) Grand Prizes (one awarded per month during the Entry Period) of a 7 nights/6 days trip for two to Cayman Islands are guaranteed to be awarded. Approximate retail value (ARV) of each trip prize: \$3,500.00; depending in location of winner and fares at time of departure. Each trip prize includes round-trip coach airfare to/from the winner's primary residence double occupancy hotel accommodations and 6 daily local diving trips for winner plus 1 guest. Travel must be completed within 10 months from date the prize is awarded. Parent or legal guardian must accompany a traveling minor. Travel subject to availability and certain blackout dates may apply. Six (6) Second Prizes (one awarded per month during the Entry Period): A SeaLife121 Digital DC 200 Underwater Camera (ARV: \$549.95 each). Thirty (30) Third Prizes (five awarded per month during the Entry Period): A SeaLife 545 SportDiver Underwater Camera (ARV: \$100.00 each). Maximum ARV of all prizes: \$26,299.70. Prizes are not transferable or redeemable for cash and no substitution of prize by a winner is permitted. All taxes and any other incidental expenses are the sole responsibility of each winner. Odds of winning depend on the number of eligible entries received per monthly drawing, estimated at 1-266,667. WINNER SELECTION: One winner will be selected per month for a total of six months beginning on 5/1/02 and ending on 10/31/02. The first entry containing the correct answers to the sweepstakes questions that is selected at random from among all eligible entries received during that month will be declared that month's winner. Each monthly random drawing will be held within 15 days of the end of that month. Limit: one prize per person. To be eligible for a given monthly drawing your online entry must be received between 12:01 AM (ET) on the first day of the month and 11:59 PM (ET) on the last day of that given month. Your mail-in entry must be postmarked between the first day of that month and the last day of that given month and received within 7 days thereafter. For any given mail-in entry deadline that falls on a Sunday or federal holiday, those entries will also be accepted on the next business day. If during any month no entries are received for the monthly drawing, that month's prize will be awarded as an additional prize in the following month, provided a sufficient number of entries are received for that month. This process will be repeated until all monthly prizes are awarded. If no entries are received for the last monthly drawing, then the final monthly prize will be awarded from among all eligible entries received in the previous months. WINNER NOTIFICATION: All random drawings will be conducted under supervision of an independent judging organization whose decisions are final and binding. Each winner will be notified by mail, or phone or email within 14 days after the drawing. To be declared a winner, all potential winners must complete & return an affidavit of eligibility and liability/publicity release within 14 days of date specified on notification, or an alternate winner will be selected. Travel companion must execute a travel release prior to travel. Winner and travel companion are responsible for obtaining proper documentation (i.e., passports) prior to travel. Prizes will be awarded within 30 days after prize notification or receipt of properly executed affidavit. If an affidavit or prize notification is returned as undeliverable, it will result in disqualification, and the corresponding prize will be awarded to an alternate winner in a separate random drawing from all non-winning eligible entries. Entry & acceptance of prize constitute permission to use a winner's name, prize won, hometown & likeness for promotional purposes without further compensation, except where prohibited by law. ADDITIONAL RULES: Entrants assume all liability for any injury, loss or damage caused or claimed to be caused by your participation in the Sweepstakes and/or the acceptance, awarding, receipt, use and/or misuse of any prize, and release Sponsor, its respective affiliates, subsidiaries, directors, employees and agents, and all others associated with the development and execution of this sweepstakes from any such liability. Winners acknowledge that Sponsor and all other companies concerned with this sweepstakes and their agents do not make, nor are in any manner responsible for, any warranty, representations, expressed or implied, in fact or in law, relative to the quality, conditions or fitness of any aspects of the prizes. Sponsor does not make, nor in any manner will be responsible for, any warranty, representation or guarantee relating to the camera prizes; provided, however, all prizes will be subject to the manufacturer's standard warranty. LIST OF WINNERS: For a list of winners (available after 12/31/02), send a stamped, self-addressed stamped envelope by 10/31/02 to: "Find your element" Sweepstakes Winners, P.O. Box 9183, Medford, NY 11763-9183. SPONSOR: Cayman Islands Department of Tourism, The Pavillion, Cricket Square, P.O. Box 67 GT, George Town, Grand Cayman, B.W.I.

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Soto's Jeep and Car Rental, Sunshine Car Rentals/Cayman Convertible.

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Kids

Hyatt Regency Grand Cayman, Resort Sports.

OFFICIAL ENTRY FORM

To enter: complete information below and answer questions on reverse side.

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Address

City

State Zip

Phone ()

e-mail (optional)

Have you ever visited the Cayman Islands?

Yes ☐ No ☐

Have you ever visited the Caribbean?

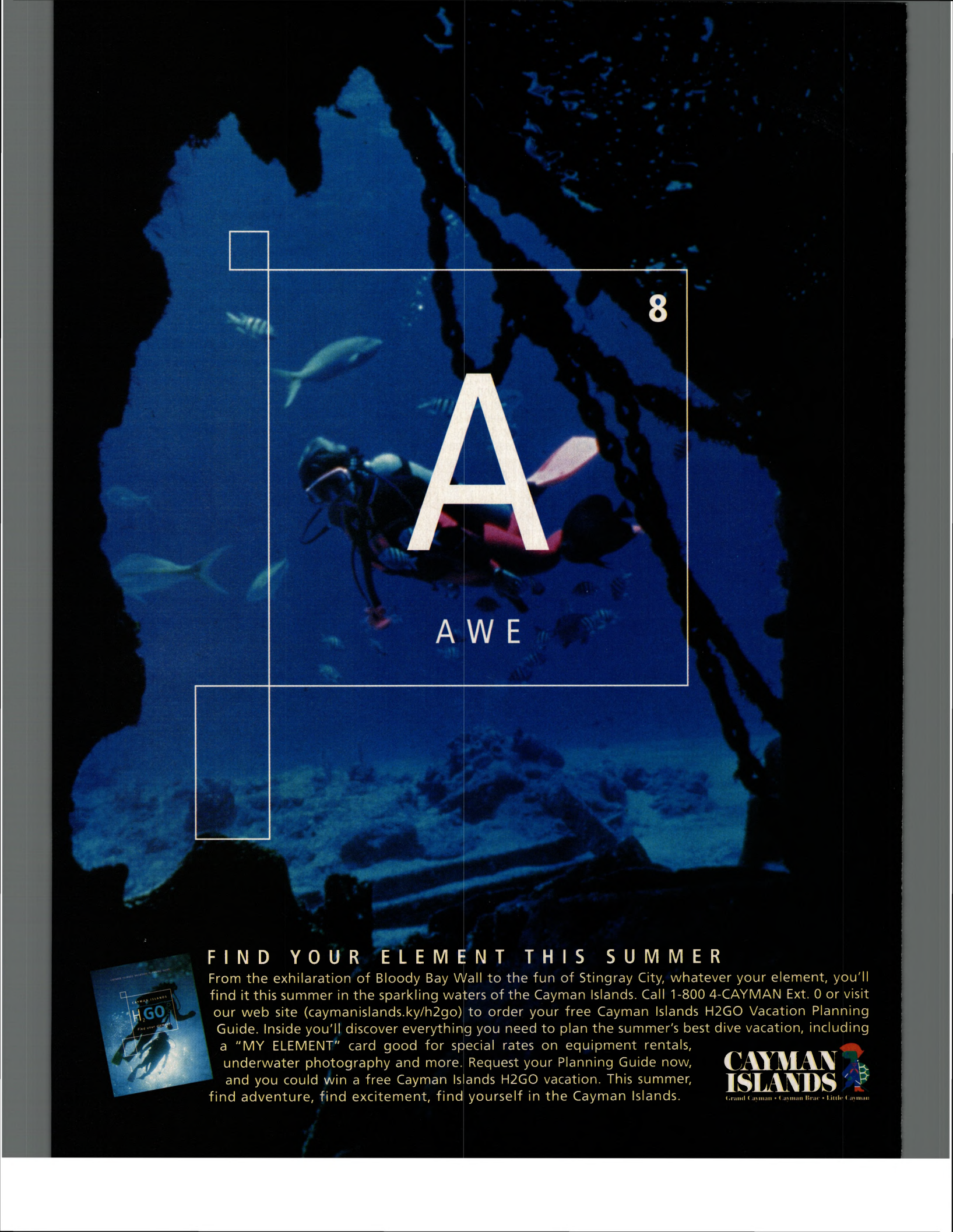
Yes ☐ No ☐

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Sweepstakes ends: 10/31/02



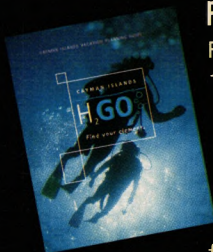
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From the exhilaration of Bloody Bay Wall to the fun of Stingray City, whatever your element, you'll find it this summer in the sparkling waters of the Cayman Islands. Call 1-800 4-CAYMAN Ext. 0 or visit our web site (caymanislands.ky/h2go) to order your free Cayman Islands H2GO Vacation Planning Guide. Inside you'll discover everything you need to plan the summer's best dive vacation, including a "MY ELEMENT" card good for special rates on equipment rentals, underwater photography and more. Request your Planning Guide now, and you could win a free Cayman Islands H2GO vacation. This summer, find adventure, find excitement, find yourself in the Cayman Islands.



CAYMAN ISLANDS
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Dacor Black Tiger Fins

Splitting from the pack on the split fin design, Dacor's fin design hopes hinge on, well, a hinge. More accurately called Optimized Pivoting Blade technology, it is found in Dacor's newest fin line. The Black Tiger (pictured) is the latest release and applies OPB technology to the company's beefiest blade to date. Targeted at divers who wear more, go farther and stay longer, the Black Tigers should appeal to the cold water and technical crowds. The two hinge-like devices on each side of the blade complement the angled foot pocket, and are designed to keep the blade at the most efficient angle of attack throughout the kick cycle. Also of note are the heel strap buckles. They incorporate a slider catch security system

that locks the buckle in place, but can be easily released by sliding a small tab.

Dacor: (203) 852-7079,
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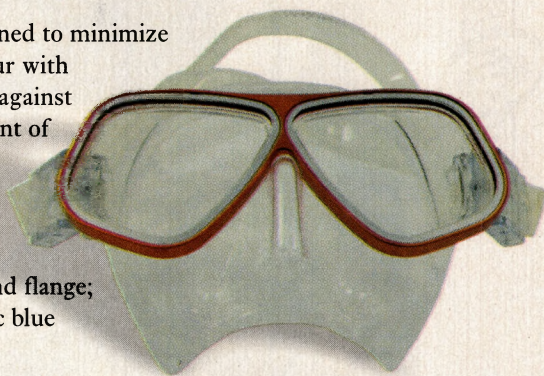
The SolCremes (SPF 4, 8, 15 & 25) protect against ultraviolet radiation of both UVB and UVA rays. Even your children can get a head start with waterproof, tear-free Karibbean Kidz SPF 25, which is specially formulated for young, sensitive skin. And for those in need of hydrating, there's Kukui Body Creme, which rejuvenates dry, overexposed skin by replenishing essential nutrients and moisturizing. Alas, for those times when the sun and harsh climate gets the best of you, Tea Tree Burn Relief can relieve pain and discomfort. There is also a 20 SPF lip balm to help prevent your smile from flaking off. **Caribbean Pacific Natural Products, Inc.:** (407) 226-8889, www.cpskincare.com 🐟

Apollo Bio-metal Mask

The Apollo Bio-metal Mask features a lightweight aluminum frame, designed to minimize the center pillar and eliminate obstruction to the field of vision—as can occur with twin lens masks. This design also keeps the 4 mm tempered glass lenses flat against the face, thus lessening the distortion that can be caused by the non-alignment of the center of the lens with the actual center of your eye. This unique frame design is also free of a mask strap buckle. Instead, the soft buckle is formed as part of the soft silicone skirt. The skirt is very comfortable and form-fitting to a variety of face shapes and sizes.

The mask is available with a silver frame and clear flange, or black frame and flange; limited edition colors are a metallic red frame with clear flange, and a metallic blue frame with either a clear or black flange.

Apollo Sports USA: (800) 231-0909, www.apollosportsusa.com



Oceanic Versa Computers

Two words to describe the Versa computers from Oceanic: simple and flexible. Both the Versa (pictured) and the Versa PRO computers incorporate Oceanic staples like dive-time remaining and color bar graphs. And, new large, digital displays of current depth and dive time remaining emphasize this all-important data. However, these computers live up to their name-sake by giving divers a great deal of versatility in how other information is displayed. Divers can customize many display features before, or even during, a dive. These include maximum depth, bottom time and time of day.

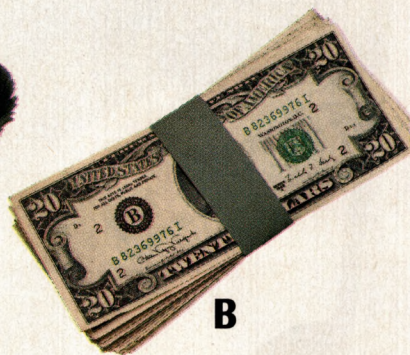
The nitrox capable Versa PRO takes these features a few extra steps by allowing divers to also utilize "Smart-Glo" backlighting, customizable audible alarms and a specially-synchronized flashing LED light that matches the audible alarms. Oceanic: (510) 562-0500, www.oceanicww.com



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A



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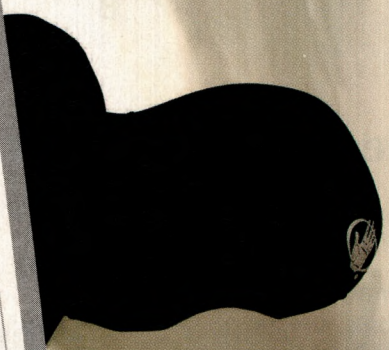
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BODY GLOVE.

WETSUITS



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lifestyle of the Wet

Text by Ryan Allen

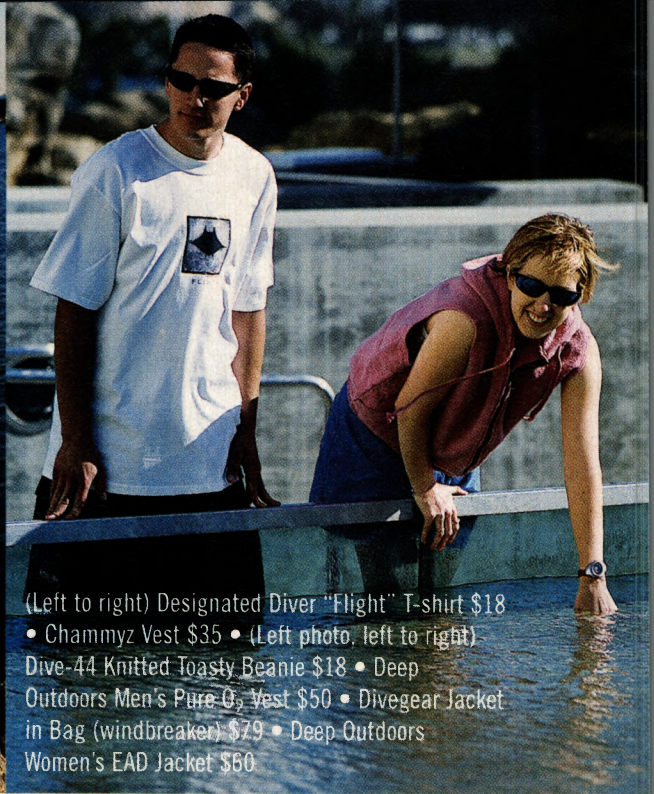
Photos by Daryl Carson & Ty Sawyer

Diving is not just a sport. Nor is it *merely* a frame of mind. It's a lifestyle. This means we live it...with style. Even when we can't get in the water, we want to be around it. And when that's not possible, at the very least we long to feel that same sense of comfort and ease, excitement and (dare I say it?) bravado that we experience when suiting up in our gear before a dive. So, whether it's quick-drying shoes, breathable shirts, lightweight jackets or thong bikinis...oh wait, we're not *Sports Illustrated*...regardless, we're ready for whatever adventure lies ahead.

Skin Diver gathered goods from manufacturers who have divers in mind when designing apparel, then tested their stuff at a place where worlds have been flipped—Aquarium of the Pacific in Long Beach, CA. And this time, the fish were checking us out.



(Left to right) Kavu Big Havana Shirt \$57, Uzzi Dive Gear Men's Cargo Short \$36.95 • Uzzi Dive Gear Vest \$39.95, Uzzi Dive Gear Women's Nylon Short \$32.95, Body Glove Water Clogs \$30 • Horny Toad The Bayou shirt \$56, Dive-44 Men's Boat Trunk \$39 • Kavu Sleeveless in Seattle shirt \$28, Kavu Waitangi Chop Pant \$46



(Left to right) Designated Diver "Flight" T-shirt \$18 • Chammyz Vest \$35 • (Left photo, left to right) Dive-44 Knitted Toasty Beanie \$18 • Deep Outdoors Men's Pure O₂ Vest \$50 • Divegear Jacket in Bag (windbreaker) \$79 • Deep Outdoors Women's EAD Jacket \$50



(Left to right) Dive-44 Skin Diver Cap \$22, Uzzi Dive Gear T-shirt \$19.95, Uzzi Dive Gear Men's Cargo Short \$36.95 • Dive-44 Aloha Band T-shirt \$18, Dive-44 Ladies Boat Trunk \$36, Reef Lounger Flip-flop \$20 • Rum Reggae Depth Wish Shirt \$22, Dive-44 Men's Boat Trunk \$39 • Divegear Camisole \$26, Kavu Wahine Short \$44

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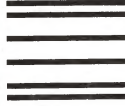
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(Top photo) Uzzi Dive Gear Half-zip Jacket \$44.95 • (near right) Amphibious Outfitters "I Get Tanked" and "Frog Flag" T-shirts \$18.95 • (far right) Dive-44 Backback with *Skin Diver* logo \$69 • (below, left to right) Horny Toad Tomboy Vest \$68, Dive-44 Women's Boat Trunk \$36 • Divegear Zip Sweat \$54, Kavu Big Eddy Short \$58



Aquarium of the Pacific



Want to whet your appetite to explore the sea? With 18 major habitats, 31 focus exhibits, and 12,000 animals, representing more than 550 species the Long Beach Aquarium of the Pacific offers visitors the opportunity to explore the Pacific Rim's three major regions: Southern Pacific/Baja; Northern Pacific; and the Tropical Pacific. Additionally, special exhibits and activities promote the Aquarium's mission of conservation and understanding—Jellies: Phantoms of the Deep, the Sea Lion show, Ray touch pool, Lorikeet Forest, and the otherworldly Leafy Sea Dragon exhibit. A new exhibit, Shark Lagoon, will debut this summer.

For more info, call (562) 590-3100, or check out www.aquariumofpacific.org.



(Left to right) Citizen Eco-Drive Aqualand \$495 • Nike Grand Cayman \$99 • Nike Timeware Cayman \$109

(Left to right) Divegear Bucket Hat \$27 • Horny Toad She-Devil Visor \$18 • Kavu Synthetic Strapvisor \$15 • Divegear Stitched Cap \$18

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(Left to right) Designated Diver "Dive Diva" T-shirt \$27 • Designated Diver Long Sleeve Dress Shirt w/ Dive Flag \$44 (Lower right) Dive-44 Skin Diver Zippered Sweatshirt \$34.95



(Above, Left to right) Nike Mojo Black \$79 • Revo Advanced Urban \$125 • Nike Mojo Silver \$79 • Ray-Ban Cutters \$69 • (Right, clockwise) Revo Advanced Mad Wrap \$209 • Revo Advanced Sport \$101 • Ray-Ban Daddy-O Square Oval \$99 (green lens) • Ray-Ban Daddy-O Oval Wrap \$99



Teva Women's Proton \$34.95 • Teva Men's Rodium \$79.95 • Body Glove Lazer \$23 • Reef Trick \$36 • Uzzi Dive Flag Sandal \$19.99

(Left to right) Nike Men's
Board Short \$45 • Nike
Women's Board Short \$30, Nike
Deep V Racer-back Tank \$38
• Divegear Baby Doll T \$25,
Dive-44 Women's Boat Trunk
\$36 • Op Garment Dyed T-shirt
\$18, Op Trunk Short \$28



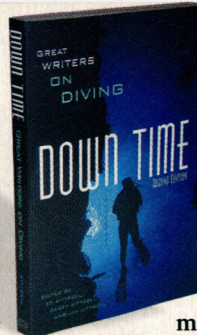
Welcome to the Diver's Library, where each month we bring you the latest in diving media.

WHAT A SPLENDID IDEA: PUT together a collection of writings from Pulitzer Prize winners, playwrights, poets, journalists and novelists—all adventure-crazed individuals who pegged their pens to paper in order

to share their dive experiences through the written word.

The unique personalities of 29 such seasoned writers shine through in *Down Time—Great Writers on Diving*, edited by Ed Kittrell, Casey Kittrell and Jim Kittrell.

Some pieces, like Dave Barry's "Blub Story: A Very Deep Experience," are laced with sharp wit. Barry initially approached scuba diving with extreme trepidation and fright, egged on by a keen imagi-



nation. His fear eventually dissipated when he came to the realization that the fish were too busy to contemplate eating him, and that "...when you finally see what goes on underwater, you realize that you've been

missing the whole point of the ocean. Staying on the surface all the time is like going to the circus and staring at the outside of the tent."

At the other end of the spectrum, is a story by Clare Boothe Luce, written in 1957 for *Sports Illustrated*. Luce was an accomplished playwright (*The Women* and others) who later went into politics, eventually serving as the U.S. Ambassador to Italy. In her account of exploring wrecks off Bermuda, she observes that, "Divers are as generous with their talk as they are with their energies."

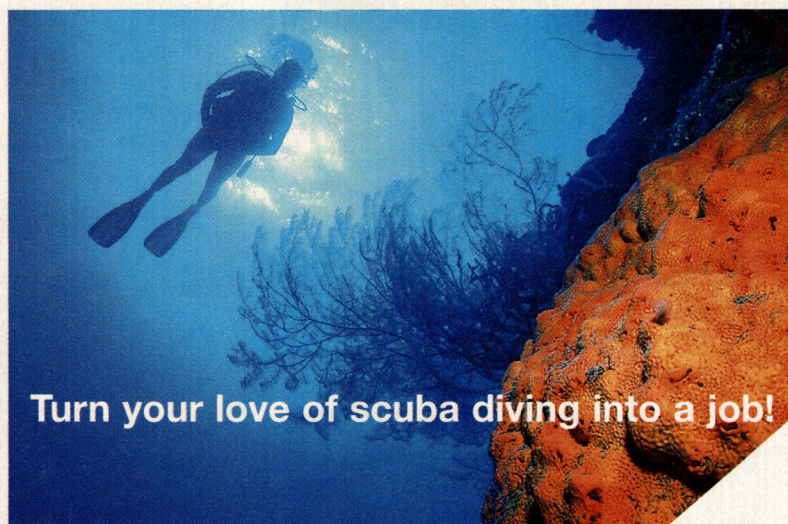
This was at a time when her "flippers" were thrown over the side of the boat

after she'd already jumped in the water—evidence that while some things in the sport have changed, others have not.

Also included in the lineup is Michael Crichton, who penned numerous novels, including *Jurassic Park* and *Disclosure*. He writes of battling narcosis while diving a deep wreck in Bonaire. And Peter Benchley, author of *Jaws* and *The Deep*, recounts his first shark encounter in waters off the Bahamas, proving that his famous tale of a terrorizing shark was rooted in his imagination, rather than personal experience.

Other contributors include Hans Hass, Bucky McMahon, Adrienne Rich and Tim Cahill. And, there would not be any diving to write about if it weren't for Jacques Cousteau, who shares his first dive with the "aqualung." It is this very experience that kicked off the sport we now call "scuba diving," and made it a possibility for us all. 🐠

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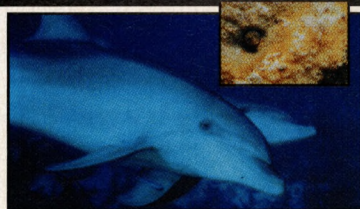


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Friendlier Skies

LET'S TALK ABOUT A DIFFERENT KIND of blue adventure. The one that takes place en route to that beautiful seaside vacation village or diving destination. I'm talking, of course, about flying the blue skies. Over the last year, I logged more than 100,000 miles in air travel. My stops included Grand Cayman, Lake Tahoe, Jamaica, the Galapagos Islands, Honduras, the Dominican Re-

minute, I know they could be in for a long trip.

But it doesn't have to be that way.

According to Alexandra Kennedy, an editor at *FamilyFun Magazine* and mother of two, flying the friendly skies with kids can be a lot easier with a little extra planning and some careful attention to detail. "The most crucial thing is that parents really need to think ahead,"



public, Micronesia and Indonesia, just to name a few. With so much traveling, there have been times when I wasn't sure which country I was in, much less what city, due to plane changes, re-routing, and jet lag.

As tiring as all that travel can be, it can't compare to the exhaustion I've seen on the faces of parents who travel with infants and small children. As an experienced traveler, I know there's an easy way to do things—and a hard way. When I see a young family rushing through the airport and taking their seats on the plane at the last possible

Kennedy says. "Think of ways to minimize lines, supplies you'll need to have on hand in case of an emergency, such as when your child gets airsick, and LOTS of things to do on-board the plane. Then be willing to improvise."

Choosing the Flight

One of the first things Kennedy recommends is planning early to ensure that you get a direct flight to your destination. Changing planes can be hassle enough for one person. You don't want to try and keep tabs on the whole gang as you're marching from terminal 12 to

terminal 36. And try to schedule flights at non-peak hours. The airport's *much* less crowded during those times, and that makes it less intimidating for a little kid. Booking your flight early also helps you land some choice seats, like the ones near bulkhead, where there's room to store all the extra stuff kids need.

Foresee the Unforeseen

I've met countless parents on flights, and I'm always amazed at how creative some of them seem to be. I've seen one mother turn a hostile, snarling child into an angel by pulling the right snack out of her bag at the right time. (If you've ever been the person in the next seat, you can appreciate this kind of foresight.) These parents always seem to carry a little of everything: crayons and paper, an extra sweater, a favorite blanket, toys, diapers, even a change of clothes for a kid who gets motion sickness. Some airlines, like United, provide a children's game book on domestic flights and a game pack filled with lots of cool stuff on international flights.

Fueled Up

Besides having the plane fueled and ready to go, United Airlines recommends that you give your child something to eat or drink when the plane is taking off and landing. Swallowing seems to help relieve the ear pain some kids experience from the change in cabin pressure as the plane adjusts to altitude. If you ask ahead of time, child travel experts say, most airlines can have a kid-friendly snack ready. The other little secret is that sometimes plain old crying helps kids unblock the pressure in the ear canal where the pain is felt most.

Just stick to the basics. Get the gang on the plane before the other adults start crowding in, nab some pillows, blankets and, if there's time, ask a flight attendant if the kids can meet the pilot. Putting a human face behind the voice over the intercom seems to go a long way toward reassuring most kids about the fun and safety of air travel. Above all, have fun. Your vacation starts the minute you leave the house, not when you arrive at your destination.

For more airline travel tips, visit <http://travelwithkids.about.com/cs/practicalities/index> or www.travelwithkids.com.



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SKINDIVERONLINE

Skin Diver's Second Annual Cover Contest—Enter, Vote and Win

BY MICHELLE DANNER

EACH MONTH, AT SKIN DIVER magazine, the staff pours over the issue's images, and by process of elimination, we narrow down photos for the cover and everyone puts in their vote. It's a democracy, and we'd like you to be part of it by logging onto Skin Diver Online, www.skin-diver.com, and voting for your favorite cover shot in *Skin Diver's* Second Annual Cover Contest.

Maybe you like the covers we choose, maybe you don't. Or, maybe you think you have one that would be better. If you do, you better hurry up and enter. The contest is already in progress. Images are arriving every day from divers all over the world and time is running out. All entries are due by July 15, 2002, and if you have an image that out-does any that you've seen on the cover, send it in.

Once the staff has picked five covers, you, the reader, get to choose the best one and anoint the winner. The five finalists will be posted on SDO, www.skin-diver.com, August 1, 2002. Now's the time to put your two cents in: log on and vote. 🐟

RULES AND REGULATIONS

To enter, submit each photograph with an entry fee of \$5 (check or money order). Multiple entries will be accepted. Each image submitted must be accompanied with an entry fee. Clearly mark each slide with location information, name and address. Vertical, 35 mm slides or medium format transparencies are preferred. DEADLINE FOR ENTRIES IS JULY 15, 2002. Send to: *Skin Diver* Cover Contest, 6420 Wilshire Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90048. Contest is open to photographers of all levels. The editors of *Skin Diver* will select five finalist images to be posted on Skin Diver Online by August 1, 2002, and *Skin Diver* readers will help select the winner. Runner-up photos will be featured in the December 2002 issue. The winning image will be used on magazines mailed to subscribers only. Grand prize will include a first-time use payment of \$800. Each submission becomes property of *Skin Diver* (photos will not be returned). *Skin Diver* is not responsible for lost or damaged submissions. Entries submitted without entry fee will be disqualified.

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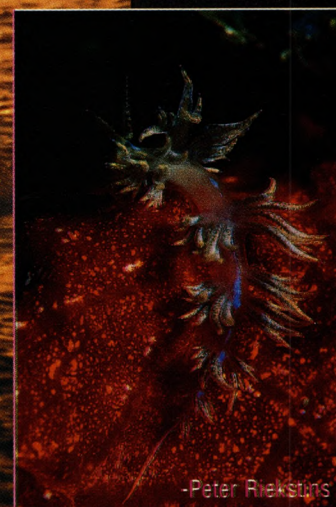
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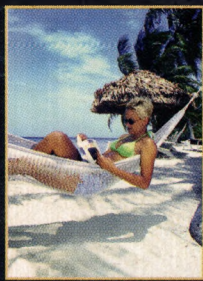


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Seven-night dive and snorkel packages include three meals daily, daily dolphin presentations, welcome cocktail and orientation, tropical picnic on Tabyana Beach, Island Fiesta Night on the Key, horseback riding, kayaking and canoeing, entrance to the Roatan Museum, roundtrip airport transportation and airline ticket confirmation. Dive packages also include three single tank boat dives daily, two single tank night boat dives, tanks, weightbelts and weights and a buoyancy control workshop.

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One diver's gloved fingers grasp the brass-capped wooden points of a ship's wheel, while she pretends to sail the long-stilled schooner on its course into eternity. Another diver glides past the upright wooden paddle wheels standing tall beside a steamer's hull, which they once propelled. Yet another modern visitor to this underwater world slips gently past a crow's nest perched on a toppled mast, while on his way to the long-handled wooden tiller by which brawny sailors steered this schooner ages ago. A fourth diver stares in amazement at the crescent-shaped moon pattern, which some long-forgotten carpenter jigsawed into the wooden door to identify the head below deck. And, a fifth diver cautiously moves into position just below an upright bowsprit to shine his light into the eye of an ornately-carved, alligator-shaped wooden figurehead and, fascinated, sees its original red paint gleam back at him.

All five of these 21st century divers are exploring shipwrecks, one in each of the five Great Lakes, and amazingly, each of these intact shipwrecks has been underwater for more than 100 years!

While saltwater locales slug it out among themselves for the title of "Shipwreck Diving Capital," thousands of Great Lakes scuba divers chuckle quietly in amusement, as they savor what they know are the best preserved shipwrecks in the world.

The immense bodies of fresh water—Lakes Ontario, Erie, Huron, Michigan and Superior—formed by glacial retreat at the end of the last Ice Age about 12,000 years ago, lie near the middle of the North American continent exactly halfway between the North Pole and the Equator. Called "the sweetwater seas" by early French explorers, the Great Lakes have maximum depths, ranging from 212 feet in Lake Erie to 1,333 feet in Lake Superior. Collectively, they form 20 percent of the planet's supply of fresh water.

Politically, the Great Lakes are shared among eight U.S. states and one large Canadian province. About 60 percent of these vast, inland seas lie within the United States. While several large cities, such as Chicago, Toronto, Detroit, Cleveland and Buffalo, line their shores, much of the northern Great Lakes shorelines are rugged, desolate and natural.

Little known even among native Great Lakers is the impressive extent of maritime activities on these inland seas during the last 300 years. Over 15,000 commercial ships have plied these waters, ranging from the French brig *Griffon*, which became the Great Lakes' first mystery ship when it disappeared with all hands on its maiden voyage in the year 1679, to the tragic, dramatic 1975 loss of the modern steel freighter *Edmund Fitzgerald* and its entire crew of 29 on storm-tossed Lake Superior, providing the stuff of songs. In between these two legendary ships lie scattered the stories and the remains of more than 5,000 shipwrecks. The numbers are staggering, and only about one-quarter of these sunken vessels have been located to date.

great

The wreck of the *Avalon Voyager II*, Lake Huron.

lakes, great wrecks!

The world's best-kept scuba secret lies in our own backyard.



Left to right: The *George M. Cox*, the *Frontenac*, and the *Myron*.

When a shipwreck is found in the Great Lakes, regional newspapers pay it the tribute of a royal birth, relating the ship's history, the tale of its tragic demise and details of who discovered it and what method was utilized. Not only does such an event put one more piece in the prodigious puzzle of maritime history, but it also provides another site for scuba diving activities.

Shipwrecks are the mainstay of sport scuba diving in the Great Lakes. More than 90 percent of the diving in the Great Lakes is done on shipwrecks, their high state of preservation acting as an irresistible magnet. Divers like to explore shipwrecks that still look like ships, and sights such as a 150-year-old schooner, upright, intact and looking like it could be raised and sailed into the nearest port, have been the primary attraction.

The Great Lakes welcome visiting divers with open arms. The creation of the first underwater park in North America took place in 1972 in the Great Lakes at the quiet fishing town of Tobermory, Ontario, due to that area's clear waters and high concentration of shipwrecks (21 of them within 5 miles of town). Today, Fathom Five National Marine Park attracts thousands of scuba divers annually, some summer weekends tripling the town's full-time population of 600.

The state of Michigan followed suit in the early 1980s with the creation of several underwater preserves, giving a higher profile to areas where there are a concentration of shipwrecks. The popular preserve at Munising, MI, for example, on the rugged shores of Lake Superior, contains 12 known shipwrecks, while the preserve at Lake Michigan's Manitou Islands offers 14 shipwrecks; Sanilac Shores in lower Lake Huron, 20 shipwrecks; the Straits of Mackinac, 24 wrecks; Whitefish Point on Lake Superior, 20 wrecks; and Lake Superior's Keweenaw Peninsula, 25 wrecks. Thunder Bay off Alpena, MI, on

Lake Huron, with 27 shipwrecks, was recently recognized by the federal government as having major significance and is now the Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary and Underwater Preserve.

The Kingston-Point Traverse area of eastern Lake Ontario has, for years, been a trendsetter in the cause of shipwreck conservation, while simultaneously encouraging divers to visit the sites. Chicago and Milwaukee boast many quality shipwrecks off their shores, and provide numerous dive shops and charter boats to care for visiting divers. Wisconsin's Apostle Islands National Lakeshore on Lake Superior has 10 shipwrecks to explore. In the mid-1990s, the Marine Heritage Area named ErieQuest, with 15 shipwrecks, was established in western Lake Erie, while the state of Ohio is close to creating an underwater park along its long Lake Erie shoreline.

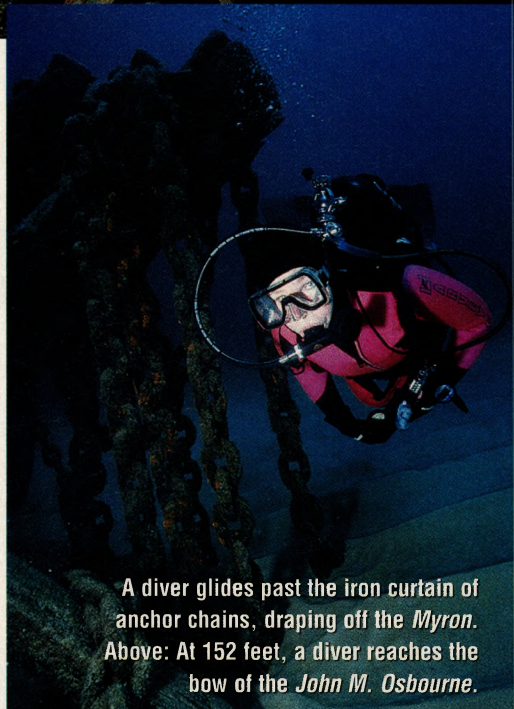
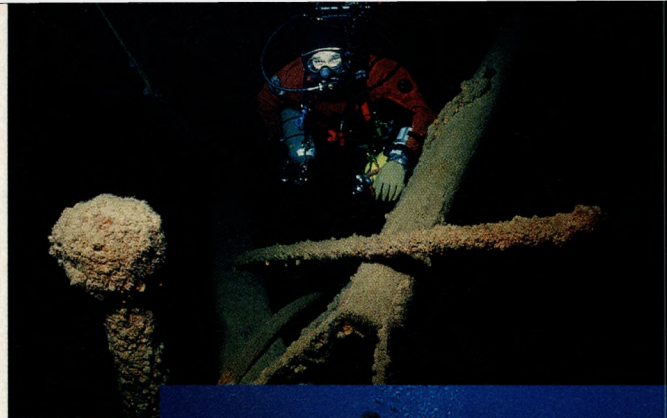
There is a strong support system at each U/W preserve offering scuba services, something that is generally lacking in some more remote parts of the Great Lakes.

Shipwrecks within the designated park/preserve areas are also marked annually with buoys that have trailing polypropylene lines. These buoys have been attached to the wrecks (or, increasingly so, to heavy concrete blocks placed next to the shipwrecks) to make it easy for boaters to tie off without having to drag an anchor and possibly cause damage to the site.

These amenities are certainly helpful for aquatic visitors, since Great Lakes conditions for diving are naturally chal-

lenging. Cold water, they say, was invented in the Great Lakes. Surface water temperatures rarely exceed 60°F in the northern part of the lakes, or 70°F in the southern portions. Thermoclines can be encountered at the rate of one or two inside the first 100 feet of depth. Deeper than 100 feet, the temperature rarely gets warmer than 40°F. A drysuit with warm underwear or a good full wetsuit is a requirement for any diver. Hoods, booties and thermal gloves are also necessary.

Visibility can also be a challenge. The deeper you dive, the darker it gets. Dive lights sell well in the Great Lakes area,



A diver glides past the iron curtain of anchor chains, draping off the *Myran*. Above: At 152 feet, a diver reaches the bow of the *John M. Osbourne*.



Remove or hamper access to shipwrecks, and you destroy the freshwater seas' scuba diving industry, presently encompassing more than 300 dive shops, more than 100 charter boat operations and about 170 Great Lakes scuba dive clubs.

Unlike saltwater shipwrecks, which deteriorate very quickly

Glass and porcelain artifacts from the dredge *Munson*.

after sinking (particularly wood, which rarely lasts a year exposed to saltwater, owing to teredo worms), shipwrecks in the freshwater seas are like exhibits in ice water museums that remain naturally preserved for hundreds of years. As in any land museum, you are welcome to look, but please don't touch, and don't even think about stealing anything from a Great Lakes shipwreck!

Local divers and heritage politicians began working together

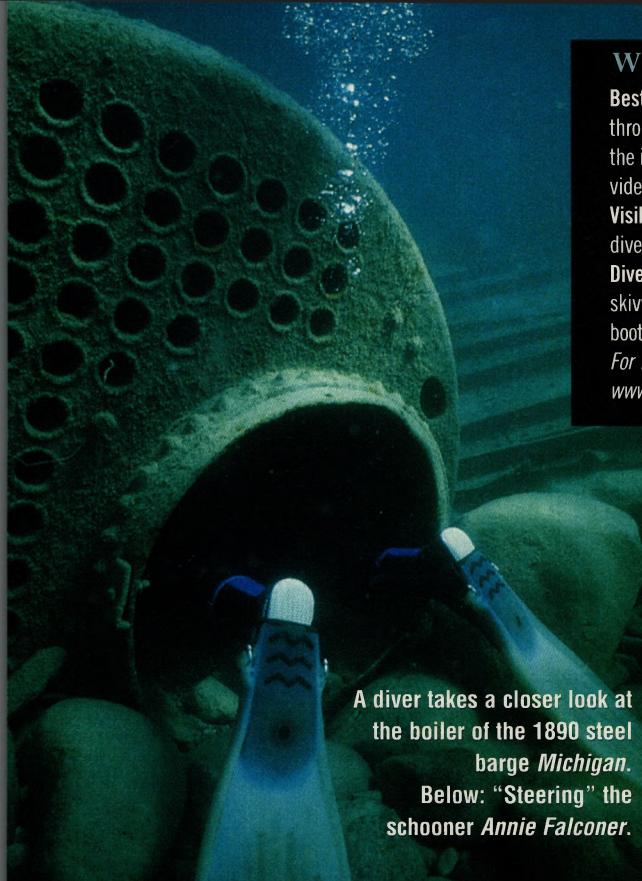
WHAT TO EXPECT

Best Time to Dive: The season is generally May through October, but hardy divers will dive under the ice year-round. The end of summer months provide for warmer dives.

Visibility: The deeper you get, the darker. Bring a dive light.

Dive Attire: Don a drysuit with a good pair of long skivvies, or at least a 7 mm wetsuit, plus a hood, booties and thermal gloves.

For local dive shops, charters and dive clubs, visit www.scubayellowpages.com.



A diver takes a closer look at the boiler of the 1890 steel barge *Michigan*. Below: "Steering" the schooner *Annie Falconer*.



because divers like to check out every nook and cranny of a shipwreck. One consoling thought about diving the Great Lakes is that there is nothing in them that can eat you.

With the hundreds of known shipwreck sites throughout the Great Lakes, there is something available for every degree of diver. Some of the finest and most photogenic shipwrecks lie in 30 feet

of water or less, such as the schooner *Bermuda* off Munising, MI, where a diver can penetrate the wreck from the bow all the way to the stern with relative safety; or the schooner *Sweepstakes* off Tobermory, Ontario, with its intact railing and windlass at the bow.

At the other end of the depth spectrum, for technical divers, there are more than 100 known Great Lakes shipwreck sites resting deeper than 130 feet. Popular in recent years is the 1911 wreck of the luxury yacht *Gunilda*, in 257 feet of water along the remote stretch of northern Lake Superior. In 1980, the only time a Cousteau expedition explored the Great Lakes, the crew of *Calypso* marvelled at

the condition of the *Gunilda*, as they viewed it from a R.O.V.'s video camera, proclaiming it to be "the most beautiful shipwreck in the world." Even the famous modern freighter *Edmund Fitzgerald*, lying in 529 feet of cold, dark Lake Superior water, has been visited by a pair of trimix divers, but only once, back in 1995.

In spite of these extreme conditions,

much the way they were when the tug *Frontenac* sank in Lake Ontario in a 1920s storm. The iron, wooden-stocked anchors still adorn the bow of the upright brig *Sandusky* in Lake Michigan, near its unique rams-head figurehead, exactly as they did when a storm sank that ship five years before the Civil War started. Crew members' initials, painted onto an interior cabin wall on the steamer *Metropole*, remain strongly legible after 101 years on the bottom of Lake Huron. The grain cargo can be scooped up by hand and slowly spilled back in a thin stream into the hold of the freighter *Panther*, which sank in a collision on Lake Superior in 1916. In 73 feet of Lake Erie water, divers can swim over the fallen masts of the schooner *Willis*, while following the upright starboard railing toward the long bowsprit, solidly in place and pointing ahead as if still trying to give those headsails more area, just like it was doing the day the ship sank in a collision in 1872.

Shipwreck-touting diving destinations such as Truk, North Carolina, Bermuda and myriad saltwater places with recently scuttled big ships are certainly worthy of consideration, but for natural shipwrecks unequaled anywhere on this planet for their sheer number and variety, their histories and their natural state of preservation, the Great Lakes offer a lifetime of subaquatic exploration. 🐟

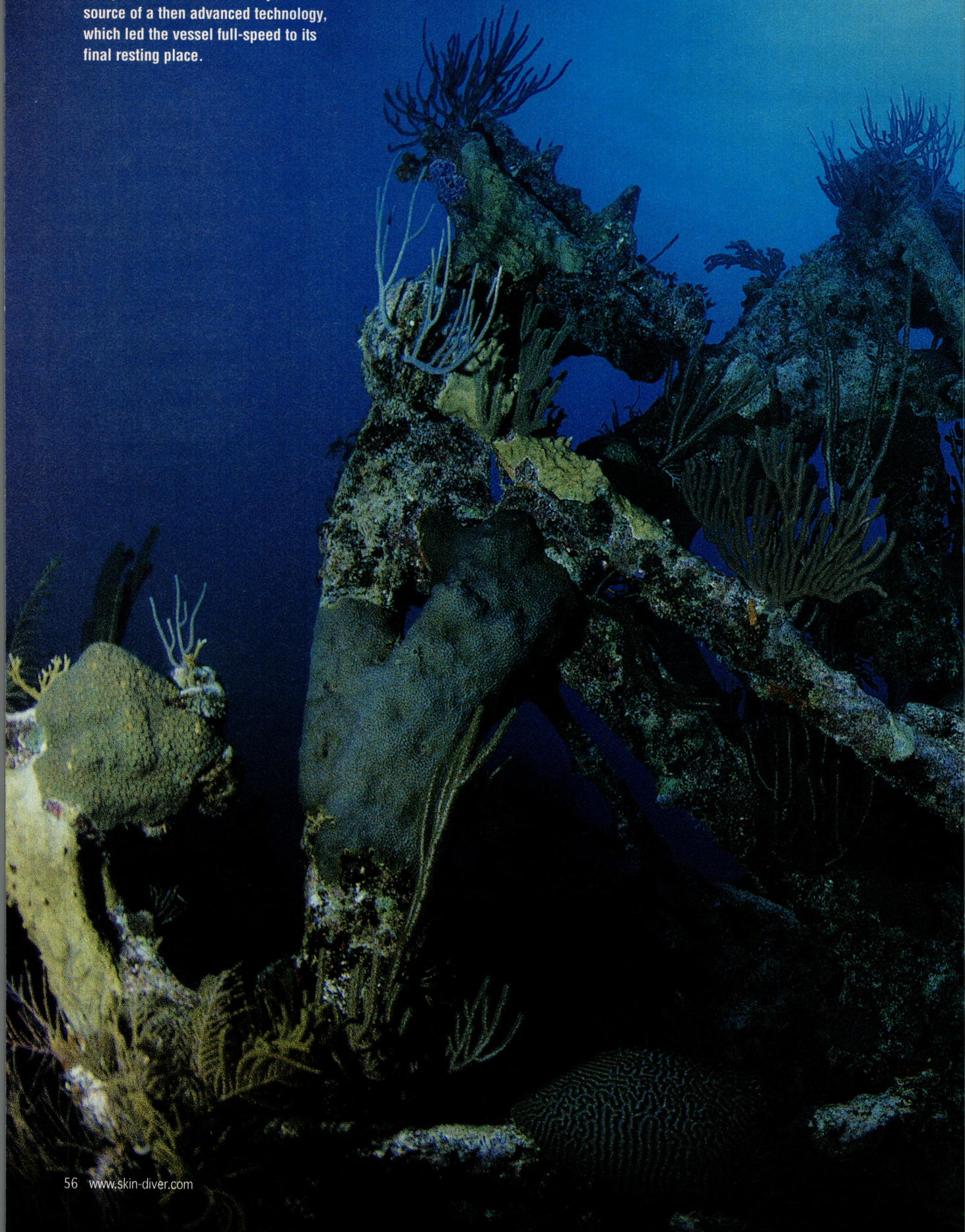
more than two decades ago, when it became evident that some divers were removing items from these unique sites for their own collections or as "tokens of accomplishment."

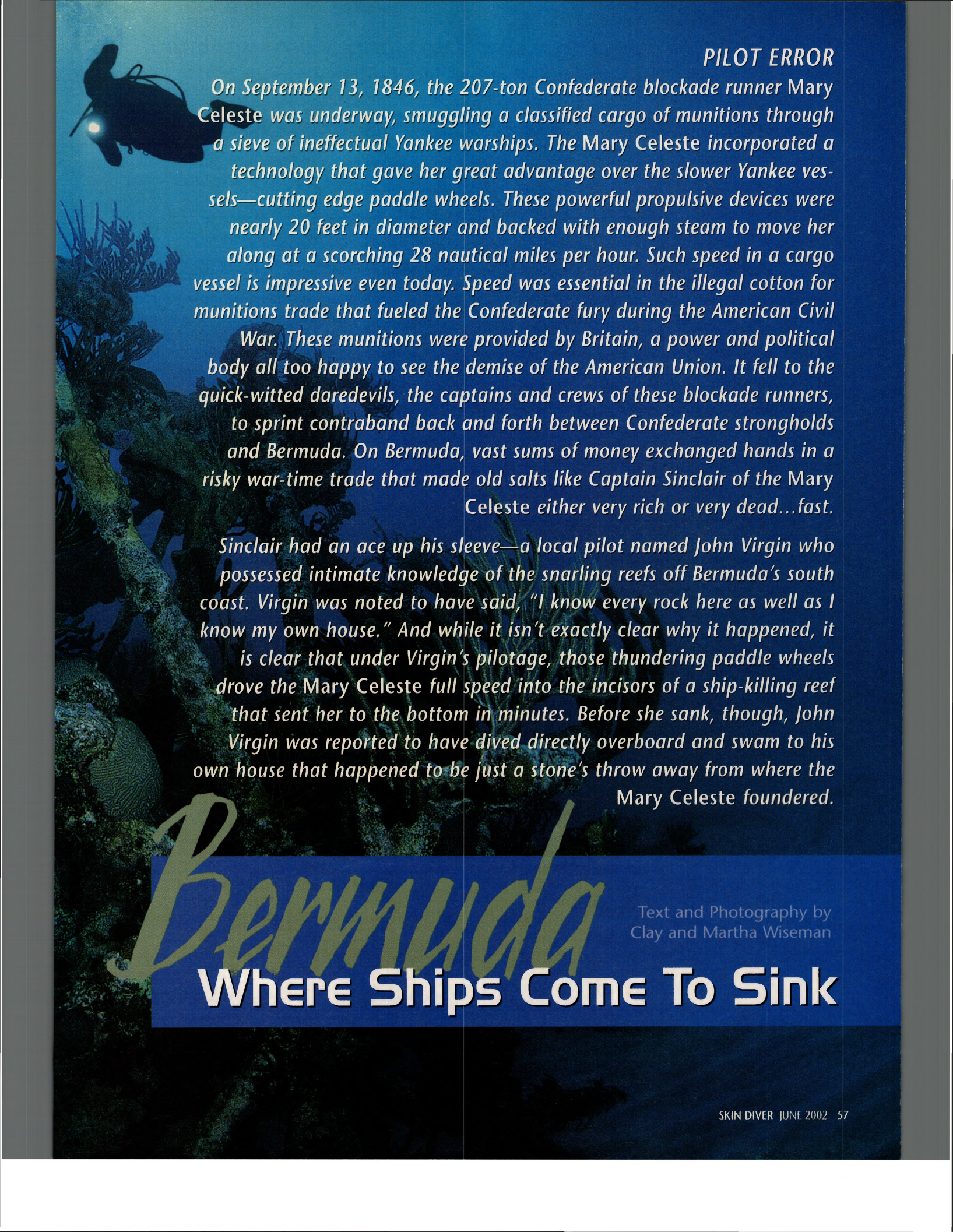
Unlike the fish population of a reef, historic shipwrecks are non-renewable resources, with doublefold significance since all aspects of our Great Lakes diving industry rely upon our shipwrecks remaining intact.

Great Lakes divers take rightful and protective pride in what they have in their backyard waters. The divers who removed an enormous anchor from the

wreck of the schooner-barge *Tasmania* in Canadian waters of Lake Erie in 1986 were tracked down, mainly by scuba divers; the stolen anchor was recovered by authorities in Michigan and returned to the wreck site by the Coast Guard in 1988, and those divers spent several years and much money in litigation and for the recovery of their two boats. Presently, \$1,000 rewards are offered for the conviction of the diver(s) who removed the ship's bell from the historic tug *Sport*, in Lake Huron, and for the conviction of those responsible for the theft of a unique metal plate from the generator of the dredge *Munson*, in Lake Ontario.

The paddle wheel of the *Mary Celeste*: a source of a then advanced technology, which led the vessel full-speed to its final resting place.



A diver with a flashlight is swimming over a coral reef. The diver is in the upper left, and the reef extends from the left side towards the center. The background is a deep blue ocean.

PILOT ERROR

On September 13, 1846, the 207-ton Confederate blockade runner Mary Celeste was underway, smuggling a classified cargo of munitions through a sieve of ineffectual Yankee warships. The Mary Celeste incorporated a technology that gave her great advantage over the slower Yankee vessels—cutting edge paddle wheels. These powerful propulsive devices were nearly 20 feet in diameter and backed with enough steam to move her along at a scorching 28 nautical miles per hour. Such speed in a cargo vessel is impressive even today. Speed was essential in the illegal cotton for munitions trade that fueled the Confederate fury during the American Civil War. These munitions were provided by Britain, a power and political body all too happy to see the demise of the American Union. It fell to the quick-witted daredevils, the captains and crews of these blockade runners, to sprint contraband back and forth between Confederate strongholds and Bermuda. On Bermuda, vast sums of money exchanged hands in a risky war-time trade that made old salts like Captain Sinclair of the Mary Celeste either very rich or very dead...fast.

Sinclair had an ace up his sleeve—a local pilot named John Virgin who possessed intimate knowledge of the snarling reefs off Bermuda's south coast. Virgin was noted to have said, "I know every rock here as well as I know my own house." And while it isn't exactly clear why it happened, it is clear that under Virgin's pilotage, those thundering paddle wheels drove the Mary Celeste full speed into the incisors of a ship-killing reef that sent her to the bottom in minutes. Before she sank, though, John Virgin was reported to have dived directly overboard and swam to his own house that happened to be just a stone's throw away from where the Mary Celeste foundered.

Bermuda

Text and Photography by
Clay and Martha Wiseman

Where Ships Come To Sink

*"HISTORY: RICH, DRAMATIC AND RIDDLED WITH INTRIGUE.
This is the stuff that had lured me to Bermuda."*

EXPLORING THE RESTING PLACE OF THE MARY CELESTE

Capt. Terry, a 15-year veteran captain and divemaster from Blue Water Divers, and Terry's boss, Michael Burke, as well as Michael's father before him, have been bringing divers to see Bermuda's historic shipwrecks since the early '60s. From their long acquaintance with these waters has come an intimate knowledge of the wrecks and their histories. In his briefing, Capt. Terry recounted, "...[it was] reported that only the life of the cook was lost in the dramatic events that lead to the undoing of the *Mary Celeste*. Upon realizing that the vessel was going to the bottom, the cook rushed below to rescue the ship's mascot, a kitty. Neither cook nor kitty ever made it back to deck level."

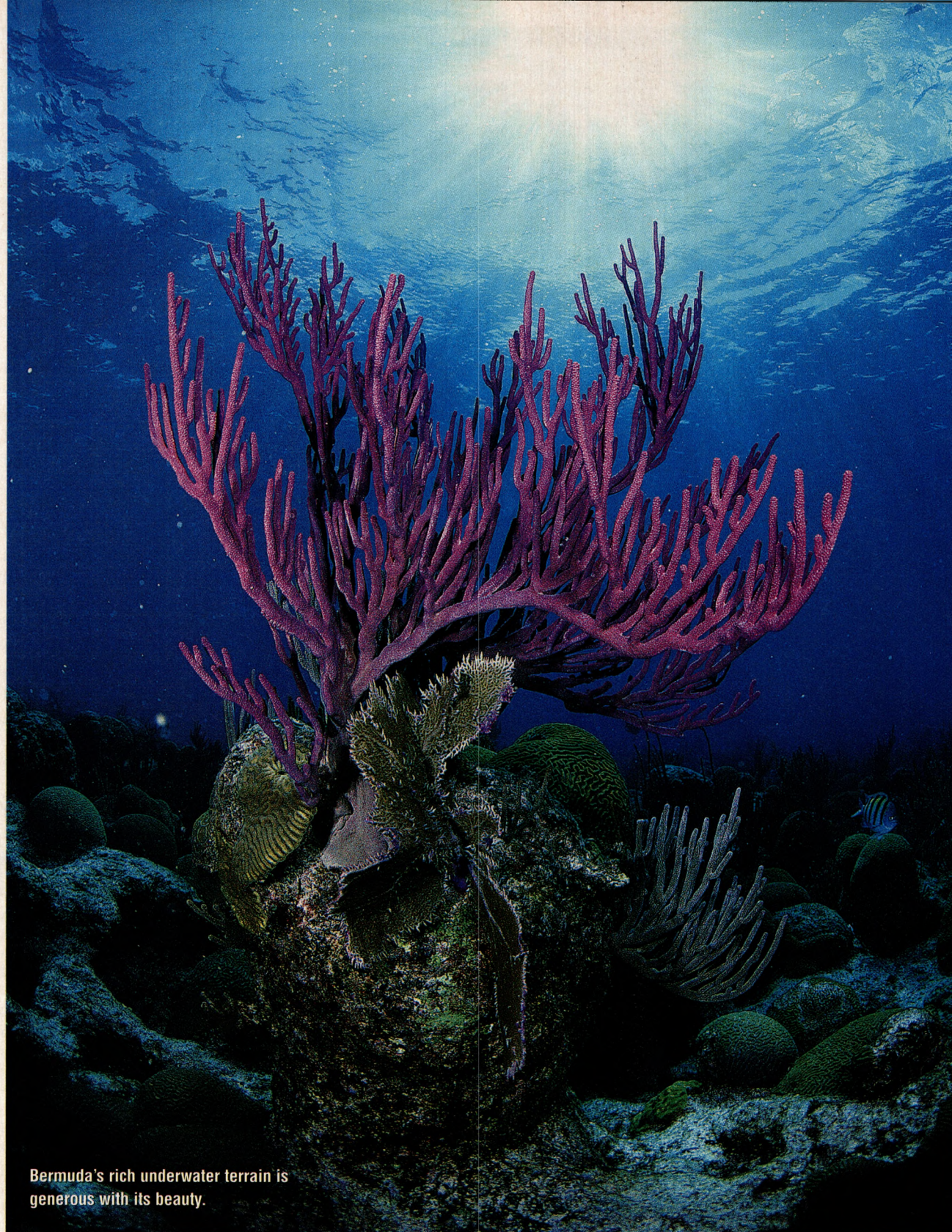
History: rich, dramatic and riddled with intrigue. This is the stuff that had lured me to Bermuda. I hurried into my dive gear,

excited to explore the resting place of the *Mary Celeste*. Over the side I went, diving into these ship-eating waters like John Virgin 156 years before me. I made for the sandy seabed 60 feet below, where I could clearly see the bones of the old girl. Her portside wheel was down as if exhausted by the efforts of 12 transatlantic crossings. The starboard wheel, though, stood tall with paddles intact. The giant wheel had become an eco-habitat for hard and soft corals and riotous crowds of Sergeant Majors. With my fin-tips in the sand, I took it all in...sucked in the history, the calamity of the event. What must it have been like that morning when this still-proud vessel abruptly plowed into the reef? Surely Capt. Sinclair had cussed, damning the very soul of John Virgin, who was all too quickly overboard. There I composed a picture with my camera, call it "Wheel of Misfortune," a picture that captures the destructive, final moments of the *Mary Celeste*.



The *Montana* and the reef as one.
Inset above: A diver explores
the bow of the *Mary Celeste*.





Bermuda's rich underwater terrain is generous with its beauty.

SHIPWRECK SLEUTH Later that afternoon, my wife, Martha, and I met a living legend. There is a man-god in Bermuda, half Neptune, half Sherlock Holmes, who has more firsthand knowledge of Bermuda's intricate marine history and shipwreck artifacts than any group or institution. He is the "Romer Treece" character of Peter Benchley's novel and feature film

The Deep. He is a salty treasure salvor whose passion for historical knowledge has driven him to explore Bermuda's reefs and sand holes for 50 years. He is Teddy Tucker, awarded the Member of British Excellence by Queen Elizabeth II in 1994, and according to archeologist Ivor Noël Hume, he is the commercial diver who, "For...what began with the discovery of

gold matured into a lifelong quest for knowledge—not only about ships but of people who sailed them and the goods they carried.” He is a legend who, as a boy, recovered English coins hundreds of years old from a



Bermuda storm drain. The coins had been delivered there by the gutters that were the beds of inebriated sailors in the 17th century. Mr. Tucker later discovered two of the most significant treasure ships ever sunk in Bermuda’s treacherous waters. These vessels,

THE BERMUDA SHIPWRECK FESTIVAL

September 14 to 21, 2002, you can meet famed treasure hunter Teddy Tucker and marine archaeologists Clifford Smith and Margaret Rule at the first annual Bermuda Shipwreck Festival, hosted by *Skin Diver* magazine, the Sonesta Beach Resort Bermuda, Nautilus Divers, Scuba Look, Fantasea Diving and Blue Water Divers. Teddy, Cliff and Margaret will give presentations, featuring Bermuda’s colorful shipwreck history and underwater archeology as part of the festival. By day, participants will enjoy exploring the best of Bermuda’s more than 400 amazing shipwrecks and surrounding coral reefs. To participate, check out www.skin-diver.com or call (800) BERMUDA, and remember to sign up soon, because space for this special event is limited and will likely sell out. And be sure to bring your underwater camera as you will be able to capture a piece of Bermuda’s amazing shipwreck history during your dives at this event.

both of Spanish origin, were the *San Pedro*, sunk around 1595 and the *San Antonio*, sunk around 1621. Included in the artifacts that Teddy uncovered in his 1955 discovery of the *San Pedro* was an emerald-studded gold cross, a religious artifact immensely valuable. Bermudians had considered his efforts

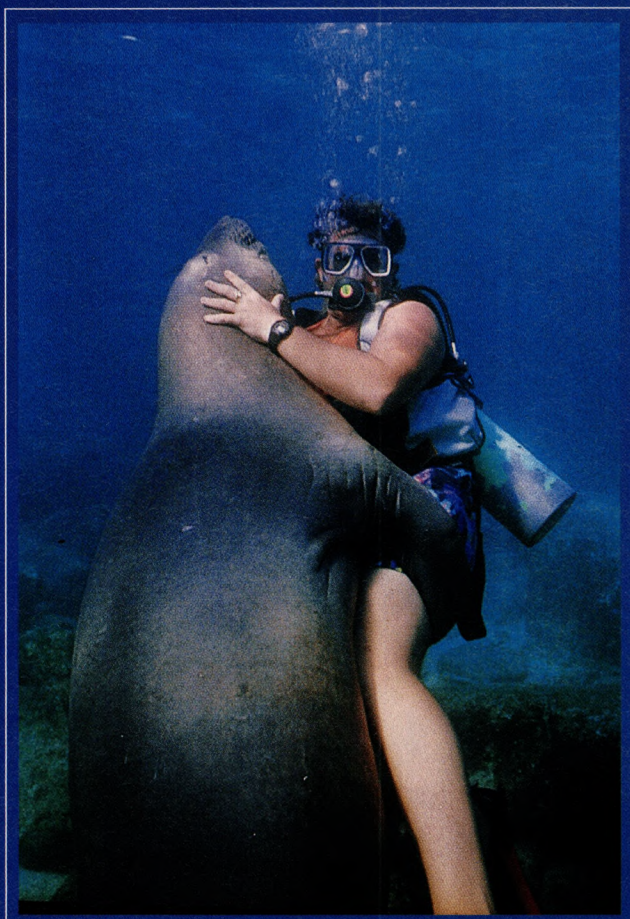
frivolous until that great discovery, and he soon discovered other valuable artifacts that lay, hitherto undetected, on Bermuda’s seabed. These included shards of ceramic pots, old bottles and the *lignum vitae*, or calcified firewood, whose internal growth rings and species directed Mr. Tucker to uncover much of the origins and the missions of these and other sunken ghost ships. Thousands of hours of careful excavation followed.

We sat on the veranda of the Tucker’s home as the shadows lengthened and we listened, mesmerized, as Teddy told us the history of the pair of Mestizo gold and pearl earrings he had uncovered in the shifting sands of the *San Antonio*. One morning, he noted the glint in the sand of one of the pair of earrings. Impossibly, that same afternoon, on the other end of the wreck, he again noticed a glint that

PHOTO (CROSS): COURTESY BERMUDA MARITIME MUSEUM (BY CLAY WISEMAN)

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GETTING THERE: There are regularly scheduled flights to Bermuda from the U.S., Canada and the U.K. From North America, Bermuda is serviced by Continental, American, Delta Airlines, US Airways and Air Canada. The departure tax is \$20 (USD). **FACTS & TIPS: Best Time To Visit:** Year-round diving is possible, but summer months tend to be favored as the waters are warmer. **Topside Climate:** Bermuda has a temperate, semi-tropical climate. Daytime temperatures rarely drop below 60°F in the winter (November to March) or exceed 90°F (April to October). Humidity is slightly higher during the summer. Storms may be more prevalent during the winter months. **Water Temperature:** Typically in the mid to upper 60s°F from December to April (7 mm suit). May, June and November usually offer temps in the 70s°F (3 mm), while 80s°F are the norm from July to September (skin or shorty). Conversely, visibility can often approach 200 feet from December



Bermuda
turned out to be the mate, that had, for nearly 350 years, been separated from the one that he had found just hours before.

My wife asked Teddy what was the best day he ever had out on the water looking for shipwrecks. Quickly, Teddy's wife and dive partner, Edna, interceded with a sparkle in her eye, "Everyday was wonderful. We were young then." Teddy just smiled.

Later, Teddy described his newest discovery. Anchoring his salvage vessel on the edge of Bermuda's drop-off, he and his buddy Mr. Benchley were up to some unlikely salvage events this last summer season. Teddy had mounted huge lights, beacons really, that he had directed downward to attract "treasures" that otherwise might be seen only in the deep abyss. He had discovered that at the right time of the year, just offshore from his treasure sites, he could lure strange and wonderful forms of marine life up from the abyss...and film them. He had just completed a documentary hosted by Mr. Benchley that highlighted the discovery.

Thirty-five minutes later found me enthralled and watching the documentary as, outside, the sun dropped below the horizon. Edna also led me through the quaint maze of antiques and artifacts in their home. The walls were adorned with paintings done by Teddy, also a noted artist. Ships he had discovered, researched, salvaged and finally commit-

through April and exceed 100 feet in May, June, October and November. On average, the cooler the water, the better the water clarity.

Exchange Rate:

1.00 (USD) = 1 Bermuda dollar.

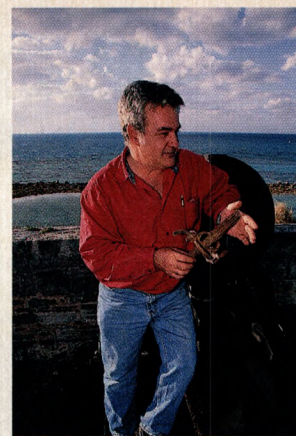
U.S. Dollar is easily accepted. **Time Difference:** Eastern Standard Time plus 1 hour.

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RESOURCES: Bermuda's Department of Tourism (800) 223-6106 www.bermudatourism.com • Bermuda Maritime Museum (441) 234-1333 • Bermuda U/W Exploration Institute (441) 292-7219 • Lonely Planet Guide to Bermuda www.lonelyplanet.com • Skin Diver Online www.skin-diver.com



A diver receives a Shipwreck Certificate. Right: Archeologist Cliff Smith with sword hilt.



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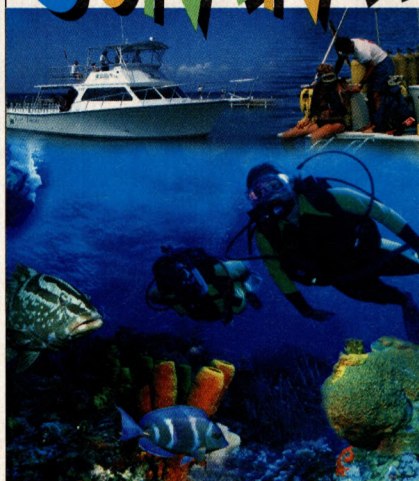



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Jean-Michel Cousteau

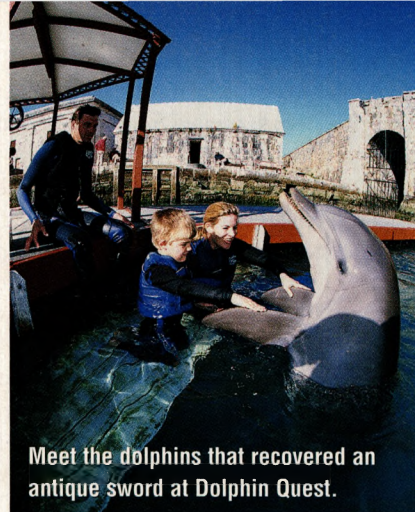
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Meet the dolphins that recovered an antique sword at Dolphin Quest.

ted to canvas. Atop the cabinets were bottles from the shipwrecks.

What was meant to be an hour-long visit had turned into three hours. As we said our "goodbyes," Edna eased a copy of the tape into my hand and bid us to, "Come back again soon!"

TREASURES OF THE NAVAL DOCKYARD

I had never met a real marine archeologist, and I am sure that I have also never met anyone who loves his "job" as much as Clifford Smith.

Cliff's laboratory is on the grounds of the old English Naval Dockyard that has been painstakingly restored by the government of Bermuda. Here, in the original buildings and fortifications of the Dockyard, you will find amazing historical displays that bring the colorful past of Bermuda to life. There is also a display of early dive equipment used by salvors, and even some of the booty discovered by Mr. Tucker and by his former Bermudian treasure-hunting colleague, Harry Cox.

Cliff was describing how Bermuda was perhaps the best place in the world to study shipwrecks, when my attention was stolen by an artifact sitting on his bench. I couldn't help myself. I interjected, "What is the story of that sword hilt?!" Cliff smiled and handed it to me.

THE BERMUDA UNDERWATER EXPLORATION INSTITUTE (BUEI)

The BUEI was a highlight of our visit, because it has all of the stuff that divers love—a submersible ride, vintage hard hat dive gear, a replica of Sir Edmund Halley's wooden diving bell, and even real treasure from Teddy Tucker's shipwreck discoveries. In another expansive room, we explored what is perhaps the largest and most beautiful shell collection in the world.

PHOTO: COURTESY DOLPHIN QUEST (BY CLAY WISEMAN)

Bermuda

The handle, the grain, the metal of the broken blade made me gasp. Imagine the swashbuckling! And yet, the piece was as light as toothbrush. Cliff told me that I was holding an epoxy injection made from a clump of coral that one of his divers had found. This technique allowed the U/W archeologist to reconstitute the artifact from the coral encasement.

BERMUDA'S GOMBE DANCERS

An afternoon in Hamilton found us ambling into an amazing assemblage of dancers and performers. Wild costumes and frenetic dancing took center stage, as the native Gombe dancers celebrated Bermuda's past and African heritage. The Gombe's performances and costumes have been passed down from generation to generation. The event at Pier No. 1 was wild!



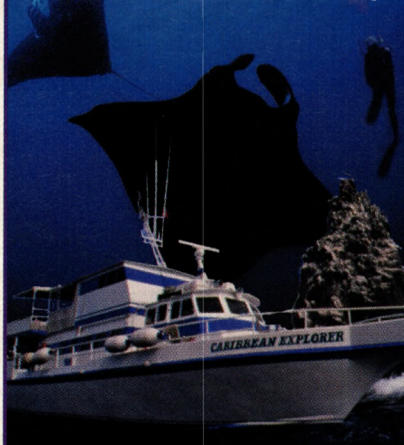
We later celebrated the event by quenching our thirst with a "lager and lime" (cold beer poured into Rose's Lime Juice)—very English and quite excellent.

Cliff then walked me over to a tank where, immersed in water, was a real sword with electrodes attached. All along the blade bubbles were being released. Cliff described to me how the dolphins living in the Dockyard had found the sword in the sandy mud bottom of their sea pool and carried it to their trainers. Amazed, the trainers had brought it to Cliff who determined that it was several hundred years old. In a process that was literally reconstituting the ferrous metal, Cliff was rebuilding the sword to its original shape from what had been a rusting, crumbling artifact.

He went on to say that interested and competent divers can participate in an underwater program in Bermuda. But, they should expect to become an expert on one small part of one particular wreck, not in uncovering "booty." To Cliff, every find is important, as every shred of evidence provides a thread in the wind-tattered spider web of Bermuda's marine history. 🐟

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come summer than by celebrating International Scuba Month. Three years ago, DEMA, along with their international network of scuba enthusiasts, the HammerHeads, declared June as International Scuba Month.

HammerHeads around the world are celebrating their favorite activity in a variety of fashions. Chapters are organizing Dive-A-Thons (to raise money for charity), holding beach clean-ups, developing youth pro-

grams and more. HammerHeads will gladly use this as an excuse for a party, so now is the time to get out from behind that desk, slap on some SPF 40 and hit the water. After all, International Scuba Month only happens once a year. Be a part of the excitement and get involved in your local diving community—great underwater fun awaits.

To find out more, contact Lydia Eldridge at (858) 616-6408 or e-mail lydiae@demo.org.

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dive trip. (The water is pretty cool, 45 to 55°F in the ocean and even colder in some of the mountain lakes, such as Crater Lake, Clear Lake and Timothy Lake.) But local divers claim that Oregon is as beautiful below the waterline as above, whether diving off the Pacific coast or in the state's unique lakes and rivers.

Club Paradise is a growing group of 70 of these hardy souls. They are a fairly equal mix of men and women, ranging from 15 years old to upper middle age. The club meets the second Thursday of every month, and the meetings include dive stories, presentations and even surprise visitors. Some feature presentations have included representatives from the Seattle Titanic Exhibit and Dave Hatch of the Elahka project (the reintroduction of sea otters in the Northwest).

For information on diving Oregon and on Club Paradise, visit www.oregonscuba.com.

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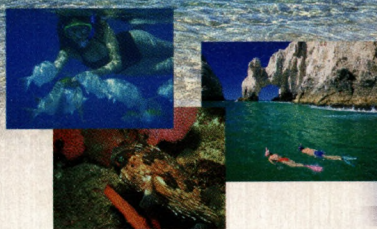
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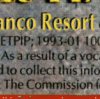
Paychecks in Paradise

It's a myth that you can't make a great living at diving. All it takes is our high employer demand for our uniquely qualified graduates.

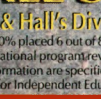




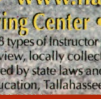


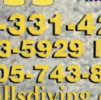
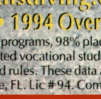



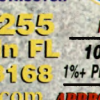
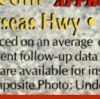


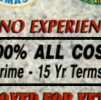
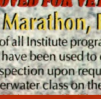




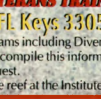


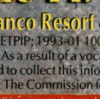




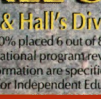




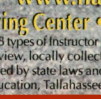
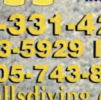
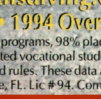
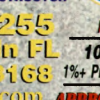
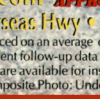
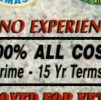
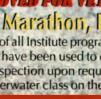


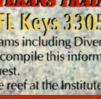




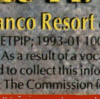


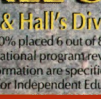


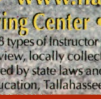
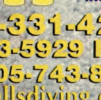
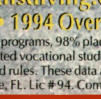
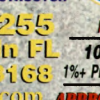
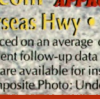
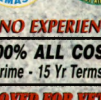
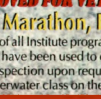








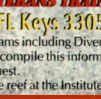




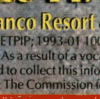


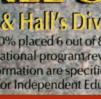


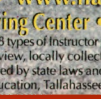
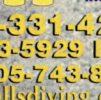
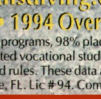
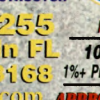
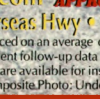
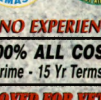
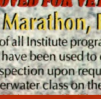








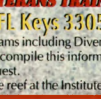




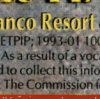


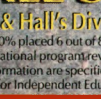


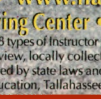
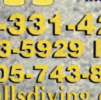
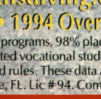
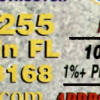
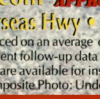
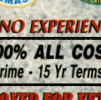
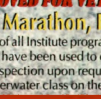








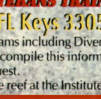




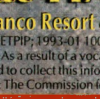


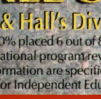


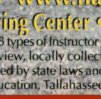
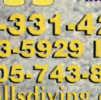
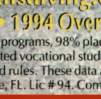
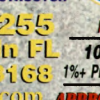
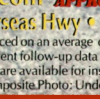
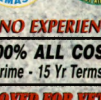
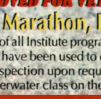








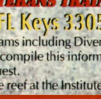




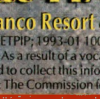


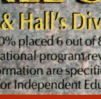


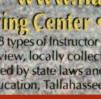
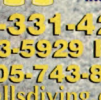
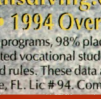
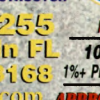
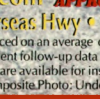
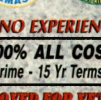
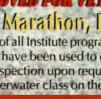








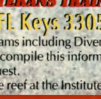




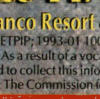


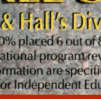


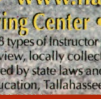
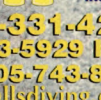
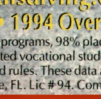
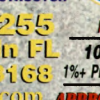
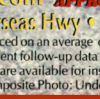
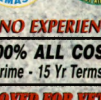
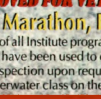








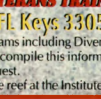




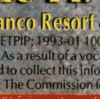


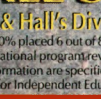


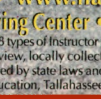
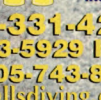
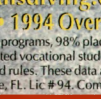
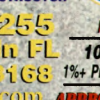
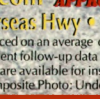
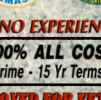
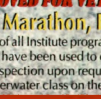








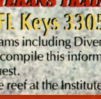




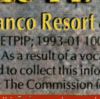


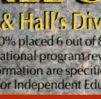


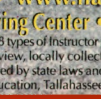
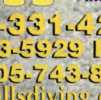
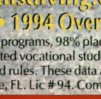
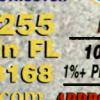
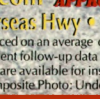
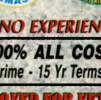
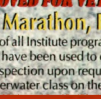








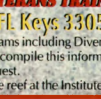




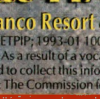


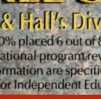


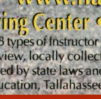
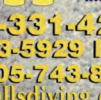
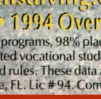
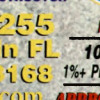
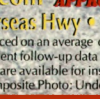
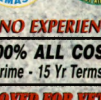
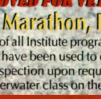








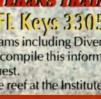




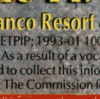


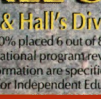


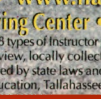
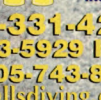
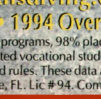
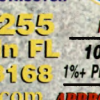
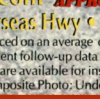
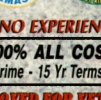
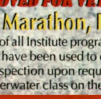








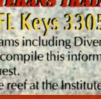




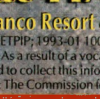


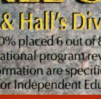


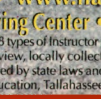
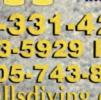
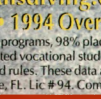
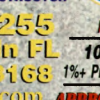
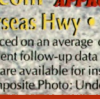
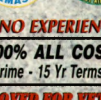
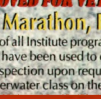








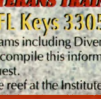




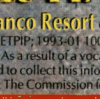


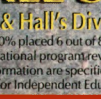


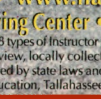
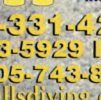
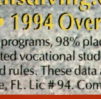
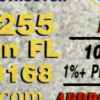
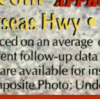
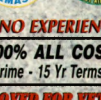
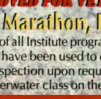








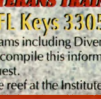




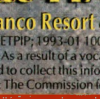


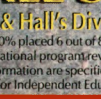


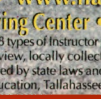
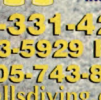
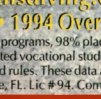
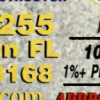
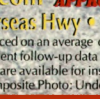
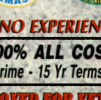
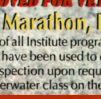








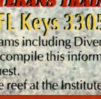




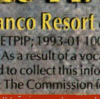


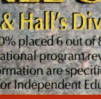


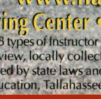
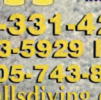
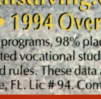
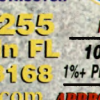
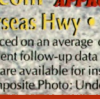
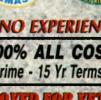
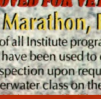








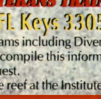




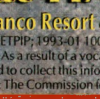


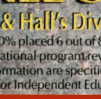


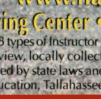
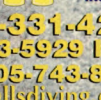
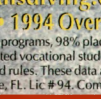
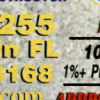
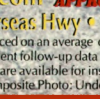
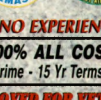
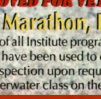








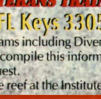




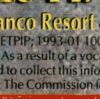


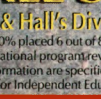


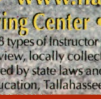
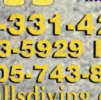
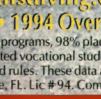
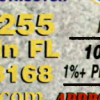
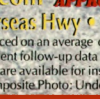
















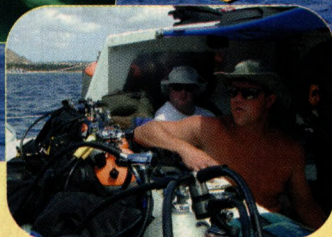
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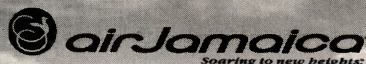
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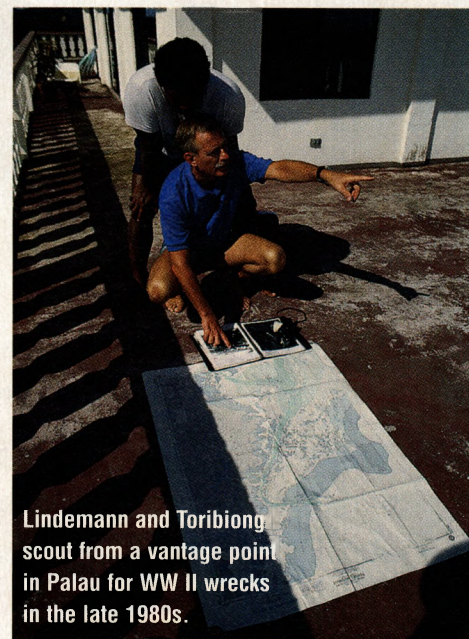
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FREEFLOW

continued from page 66

Fish 'N Fins founder Francis Toribiong and war witness Tiakl Boisek for the *Desecrate One* book. Combined with extensive research of archives in the U.S. and Japan, his books became the barometer by which all others were measured.

To honor and remember Klaus, Francis Toribiong and Fish 'N Fins will lead a group of divers for a special WREXPEDITION (Wreck Expedition) on June 7 to 14, 2002. During this unique expedition, the participating divers will dive wrecks that have never been visited since their discovery. There will be a special underwater memorial ceremony for Klaus Lindemann and the unveiling of an underwater monument. Divers will explore the 3-D computerized images of the wrecks and assist in the search for a lost World War II submarine. Toribiong is scheduled to present and there will also be the viewing of rare films.



Lindemann and Toribiong scout from a vantage point in Palau for WW II wrecks in the late 1980s.

I worked extensively with Lindemann in the late 1980s and early '90s. Klaus never rested when it came to his thirst for knowledge for the details of the many wrecks in Palau. He continued to develop creative new products and update his amazing work throughout his career. He was truly a unique individual. 

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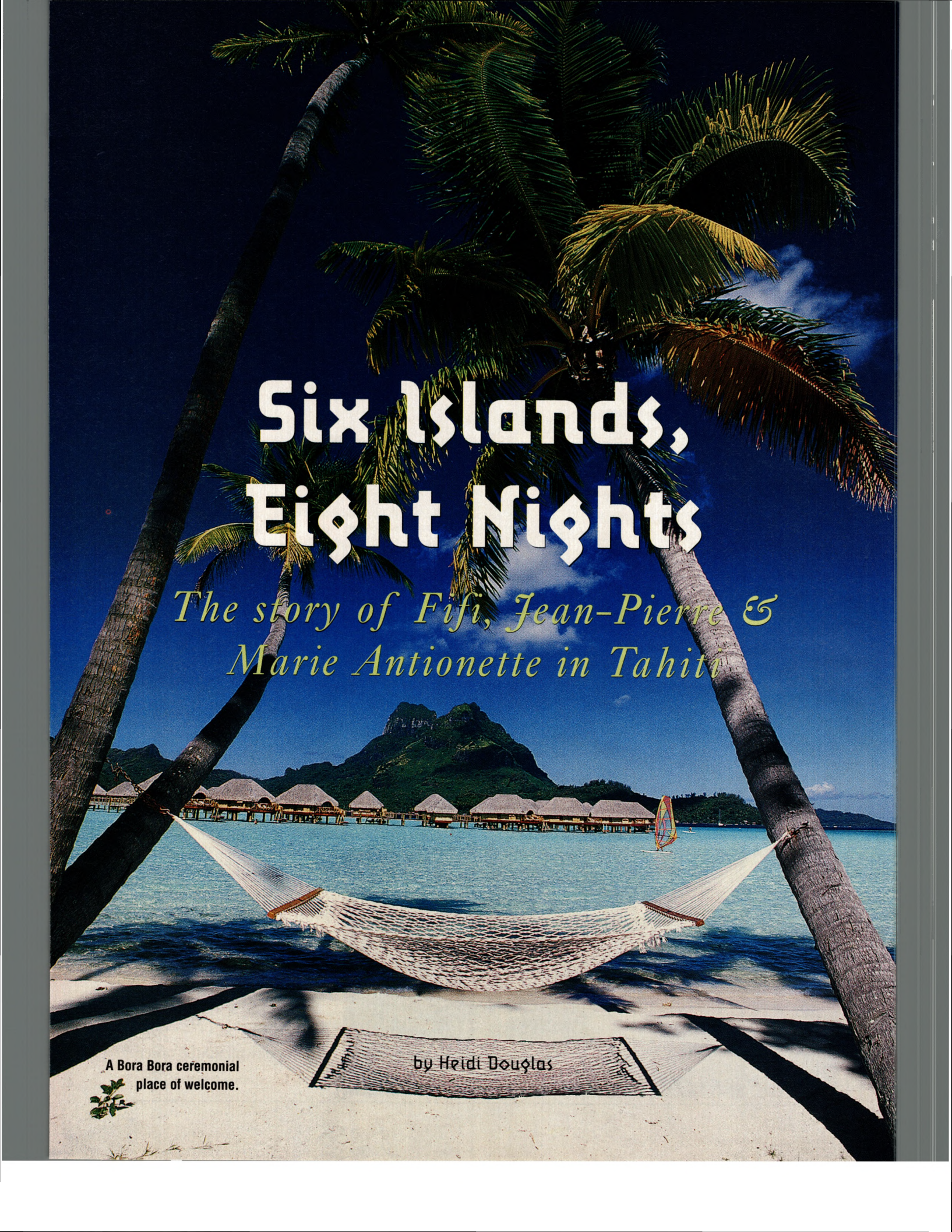
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A vibrant tropical beach scene. Two tall palm trees frame the top and sides of the image. A white hammock is strung between their trunks, hanging over a sandy beach. In the background, a row of thatched-roof huts sits on stilts over the turquoise water. A small sailboat is visible on the water. A large, green mountain rises in the distance under a clear blue sky.

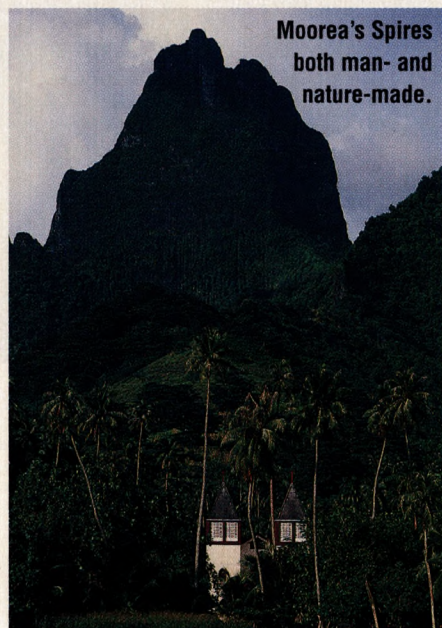
Six Islands, Eight Nights

*The story of Fifi, Jean-Pierre &
Marie Antionette in Tahiti*

A Bora Bora ceremonial
place of welcome.

by Heidi Douglas

Sometimes if you're good, do the right thing as often as possible and take the high road at every opportunity, life throws you a bone. A really nice bone. There is no other explanation for how my friends and I found ourselves on a six-island tour of Tahiti. However, fate had left the deal a little sour. You see, Tahiti is not a place for wondering souls searching for life's true meaning. It is devastatingly romantic. Every inch of sugary beach, every rustling palm and each lagoon full of perfectly blue water cause the soul to ache for a companion of the heart. But our companionship was more of the "Three's Company" variety—Heidi Douglas, marketing rep, married; Ty Sawyer, harried editor, married; and Johanna Martin, single and not interested in Ty or Heidi. Nevertheless, with only eight days to soak up all things Tahitian (the busy-Americans-on-a-tight-schedule plan), our agenda would take us to Tahiti, Moorea, Huahine, Raiatea, Bora Bora and Rangiroa. This was a trip with good friends, great fun and no small amount of romantic longing. In the end, though, there was only one conclusion: Whatever good we'd done to get here, we'd just been over paid.



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Tahiti

We stepped off our Air Tahiti Nui flight in the cosmopolitan center and bustling capital of French Polynesia, Papeete, with heads full of high-expectations. We'd all read Michener's *South Pacific*. We'd all seen the photos and the brochures showing an impossibly perfect paradise of overwater bungalows and jagged, jungled peaks. Only seven and one-half hours from Los Angeles, we arrived ready to take it all in.

We checked-in to our hotel just in time for "Polynesian night." Traditional dancing was outlawed by French missionaries in the 1800s, but is now more popular than ever. Women in long, yellow grass skirts and swaying hips, whose precise movements tell stories, danced hypnotically. On their heels, fire dancers

twirled flaming batons at an ever-faster pace as we enjoyed chilled French red wine. Quite an introduction to the legendary Tahitian hospitality. I could hear Ty muttering to himself, "No wonder sailors mutinied. Poor Captain Bligh didn't stand a chance against those hips. Did you see that?" He then wondered off to his room in a Tahitian daze. (*Men!*)

The next morning, driving our small car from Tahiti Nui to Tahiti Iti, the smaller half of the island of Tahiti, we hung slack-jawed from the windows, and twisted our heads to see the island's densely, and overwhelmingly picturesque, jungled interior. Every few miles, we crossed a stream coursing like a silvery ribbon out of the mountains. Groves of coconut palms, hibiscus and ironwood trees lined the road. And the

hushed water of the clear lagoon was almost indescribable in its allure.

Arriving early at Tahiti Iti Diving, we had a few moments to relax with the local kids lolling about the shore, and doing what kids all over the world do, we goofed off. As the other divers arrived, it quickly became apparent that diving off Tahiti is just as appealing to the local expats. We quickly exhausted our command of the French language (*Oui, Non, Merci, Où est la toilette?*) with introductions and reverted to courtesy smiles and head bobs. Fortunately for us, the French in Polynesia don't have the hang-ups that the French in France do. They are polite, friendly, helpful and don't mind speaking a little English every now and then. They even smile. We came to the conclusion that all French people



(including French Canadians) should come here for training in international relations and hospitality. We were so taken by the atmosphere, we decided to take on French *noms de guerre*—Fifi (Heidi), Jean-Pierre (Ty) and Marie Antionette (Johanna).

Leaving *Marie Antoinette* behind with the kids, we boarded the boat and headed out to experience one of Tahiti's abyssal wall dives at a site called Marado.

At about 30 feet, the level coral bottom suddenly dropped away into a deep blue nothingness. On the side of the wall, bright orange gorgonians and sponges quivered in the current. We explored two narrow, but spectacularly pristine and sea fan-choked chimneys in the wall. Throughout, we kept getting the feeling that there was something watching us. I looked at Jean-Pierre, but he was busy photographing a moray eel in open water. He looked up, and I motioned out to the blue. We both strained our eyes, yet

didn't see anything. Finally, toward the end of the dive, we spotted it—a huge Napoleon Wrasse had been shadowing us. And off in the blue netherland, we got a ghostly glimpse of some of Tahiti's famous Blacktip Reef Sharks.



Raiatea's oft-photographed
Napoleon Wrasse greets its
old friend Humbert.

Back on land and reunited with *Marie Antoinette*, we found that time had escaped us, and it's a mad dash to get to the ferry landing back in Papeete. We barely made it; in fact, we dropped off our rental car with a baffled ferry clerk and threw our bags on as the last mooring line was let loose. The only

place left on the ferry was the back of the bottom deck, reserved for luggage, diesel fumes and late passengers. But as Moorea loomed closer, all discomfort was forgotten. With each foot, the jagged peaks became more alluring and mysterious. Images of Captain Bligh, Paul Gaugin and, of course, Mel Gibson (at least for *Marie Antionette* and me) as Christian Fletcher came to mind. What must it have been like to sail through these waters 200 years ago? The more we talked about it, the more we decided that it must have been equally as magical.

Moorea

We arrived at our hotel, the Bali Hai Moorea, to a small surprise.

"What do you mean there's only one room left?"

With a holiday weekend on us, we found ourselves in the predicament of having only one room for the three of us.

"Well, Jean-Pierre, it looks like you are destined to sleep on our couch the next two nights." His eyes lit up with



And, just offshore, more equally spectacular megafauna awaits, this time in the elegant, sweeping shape of Manta Rays, almost guaranteed at a site called Anau. On good days, as many as 10 show up; on bad days, five...

the prospect of spending two nights in the "girl's room."

He winked at the resort owner and commended him for the oversight. (*Men!*)

After settling in, we went to the beach, placed deck chairs in the silent waters of the lagoon, and stared at a night sky filled with more stars than I thought possible.

The next morning, *Jean-Pierre* and I left *Marie Antoinette* asleep and headed to Bathy's Club dive shop. What should have been a 20-minute drive around Cook and Opunohu Bay turned into an hour-long photographic safari. Every 10 feet, one of us would panic that we were missing the best photo opportunity of our lives, so stopped the car to capture the image—blue water dotted with a few small boats; lush coconut palms hanging out over the water; sheer, impossibly jungled cliffs shooting up into the blue sky. *Jean-Pierre* was right; it's no wonder Captain Bligh's men mutinied when they had to

leave this paradise.

We arrived to see the divemaster checking his watch one last time before shoving off for the morning shark feeding dive. If Tahiti, and especially Moorea, is famous for anything, it's megafauna, which is a fancy word for large fish, namely sharks—Blacktips, Whitetips, Grays, Lemons. And at the Opunohu Canyon site, before the boat even dropped its anchor, the reef sharks were circling, dorsal fins slicing the dead calm water. We settled on the bottom in a semicircle, and soon it was time for *repas des requins* (food for sharks).

At first cautious, the sharks circled. Then, as the scent of their breakfast became stronger, they began lunging at the fish parts, getting ever more frenzied, until all that was visible was a swirling mass of sleek gray bodies. Suddenly, a large shape appeared out in the blue water. A 10-foot Lemon Shark approached, and the Blacktips parted

to let it pass. The Lemon took a few finicky nibbles, then, bothered by the maelstrom of snappers, surgeonfish and a host of other tropicals, swam off in search of something with a little less competition.

I looked to my left to see what *Jean-Pierre's* reaction was and realized he was nowhere in sight. In his place there was a whirling ball of yellow, blue, red and silver. The reef fish were going nuts over some small scraps that had floated his way. I see the flash of his strobes and, reassured he was alive somewhere in the cocoon of fish, I turned my awed attention back to the surreal energy of the reef sharks.

Later, back at Bali Hai, we met up with *Marie Antionette* who had spent an equally adrenaline-filled day of sunbathing, reading, sunbathing and napping.

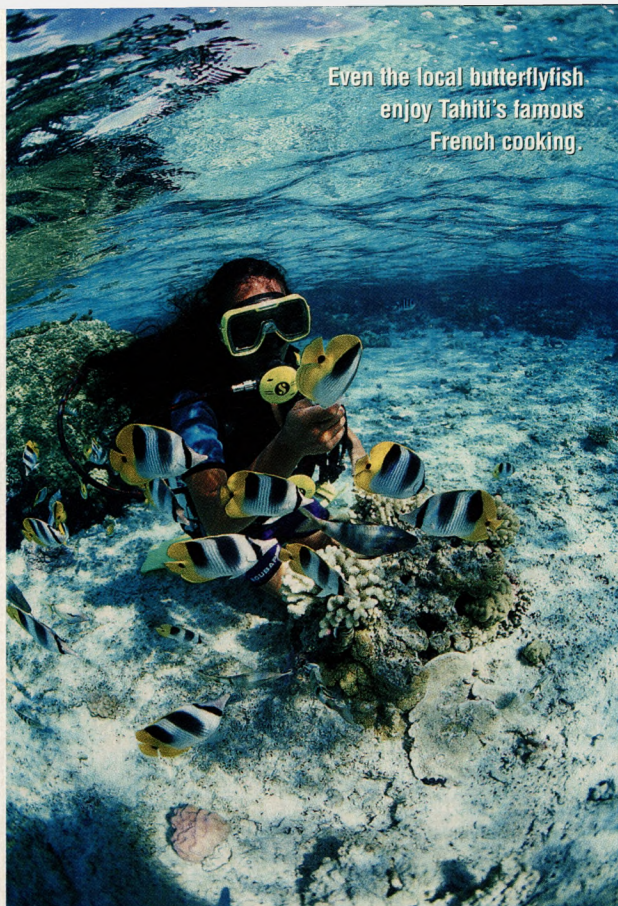
Huahine

As our flight approached for a final

landing, we could see both the islands of Huahine and Raiatea, and both were perfect poster images of a tropical island paradise. While Tahiti and Moorea had the stronger infrastructure for traditional tourism, Huahine, our first stop, still seemed genuinely untouched and native.

A few minutes later, we were getting off the plane and onto a boat that would take us to our resort, Te Tiare, where hatched cottages hung out over the water with a perfect white beach gleaming behind them. Truly, luxury taken to its most romantic. *Jean-Pierre* and I almost simultaneously said we should come here with our respective spouses.

Huahine is known as the "secret island" and it's easy to see why. It is still relatively unspoiled. There are creamy beaches on the windward side, where lonely palm trees are awkwardly bent after years of fighting the wind. In the inland lagoons, the natives still build elaborate stone traps that strand fish at low tide. Hidden in the foliage,



Even the local butterflyfish enjoy Tahiti's famous French cooking.

quite tame and possessed not one bit of God-like ego. After a bit of coaxing, we were all out in the stream with tin cans of sardines and for a brief moment, we frolicked with the blue-eyed gods of Huahine.

Later, we donned our snorkeling gear and convened with the undersea objects of our true passion, just off the resort beach. We saw stingrays hiding in the sand, pristine mounds of corals, which provided shelter and food for bright blue damsels and surgeonfish, flittering butterflyfish, parrotfish, pufferfish, unicornfish and a variety of triggerfish. All in shallow, crystal-clear water that, as the sun went down, was almost impossible to peel ourselves away from, to once again pack and get ready to move on.

Raiatea

Polynesian *marae* (temples and stone structures) hold ancient secrets in their stony silence. And, we visited a stream, where, much to our surprise, there were blue-eyed eels once worshiped as gods,

This seemed to be the trip of late entrances, and once again, we arrived just in time for the afternoon dive. As the boat was mooring for our dive, we struggled into our wetsuits and gear.

Skin Diver GUIDE • TAHITI

GETTING THERE: A number of airlines fly to French Polynesia: Air New Zealand, Air France, Aircalin, Qantas, Corsair, AOM and Hawaiian Air.

FACTS & TIPS: Best Time To Visit: Any time of the year. The visibility is always good, but is slightly better from May to October. Overall, the best diving is from April to November, when the water is about 5°F warmer. **Topside Climate:** Although there are two seasons—the slightly warmer and more humid period between November and March, and the cooler season between May and October—the difference is minimal. Most of the year is pleasant. Temperatures range 80 to 95°F from November to April, and 70 to 85°F May to October. **Water Temperature:** Average temperatures are 79°F in the winter, and 84°F during summer. There's virtually no thermocline; only 1°F difference between the surface and 150 feet. A 2 to 3 mm shorty or lycra suit is fine year-round. • **Exchange Rate:** 1.00 (USD) = 140 (XPF). USD is easily accepted. **Time Difference:** Eastern Standard Time minus 5 hours.

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RESOURCES: Tahiti Dive Association www.diving-tahiti.com • Tahiti Tourism North America (310) 414-8484 www.gototahiti.com • Tahiti Explorer Guide www.tahiti-explorer.com • Lonely Planet Books www.lonelyplanet.com • Moon Handbooks www.moon.com • Skin Diver Online www.skin-diver.com

Splash! and we were again submerged in liquid blue at a site called Miri Miri and the Roses. At Miri Miri, the fish-life made photographers drool, but it was the semi-tame and well-fed mammoth Napoleon Wrasse that grabbed all the attention. It is quite familiar with Humbert, our divemaster from

[Off Huahine] We saw stingrays hiding in the sand, pristine mounds of corals, which provided shelter and food for bright blue damsels and surgeonfish, fluttering butterflyfish, parrotfish, pufferfish, unicornfish and a variety of triggerfish.

Hemi-sphere Sub, who scratched its chin by way of greeting. And this time, instead of shadowing us, the giant wrasse was in our faces, lookin' for lovin'. To be that close to so big a fish really put our size and abilities in perspective. In addition, we swam among densely packed schools of snapper, sea turtles and, at the surface, needlefish. The Blacktip and Whitetip Sharks generally kept to themselves, as they patrolled in the distance. Descending a little deeper to *Les Roses*, we came upon vast patches of unscathed and dramatic plate and cabbage coral.

All dried off and a bit sunburned (with the mad dash for the boat, we forgot our sunblock), we asked Humbert about local eateries.

"Oh, you must try *Chez Guy* (pronounced ghee)," he declared immediately in his Poly-French accent. "In fact, that is *Guy* over there. I will make reservations for you with him now!" And off he went, arranging our reservation for 7:00 PM sharp.

Guy arrived himself to pick us up, still wearing his chef's apron and hat, fresh from his kitchen and smelling of something delightfully mouthwatering. Serenaded by geckos, *Jean-Pierre* and I felt a bit out of place as our *Marie Antoinette* had decided to stay at the hotel. We suspected a blond Aussie was the reason, but at this point we could only speculate. Humbert was right, though, *Chez Guy* was not to be missed

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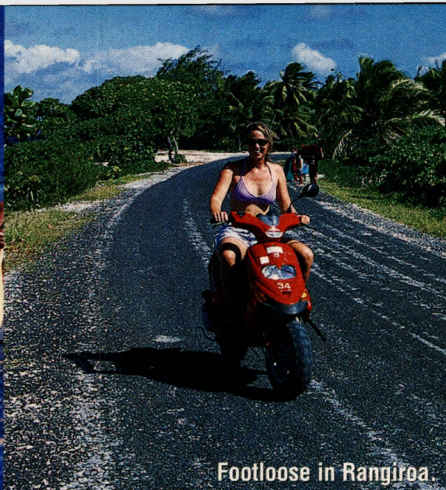
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and we indulged ourselves in dishes that would make a continental *Parisienne* chef bow his head in shame. When it was finally time to return to the hotel, we asked the hostess to call a cab.

"Oh, no need," she said. "Luc is leaving now." And with that she hustled off, returning a moment later with an older French gentleman who didn't speak a word of English, but was more than happy to give us a ride back to our hotel, babbling the whole way. Snooty Frenchmen? No, indeed. In fact, if you want friendly, there is no other place you can go and find friendlier people.

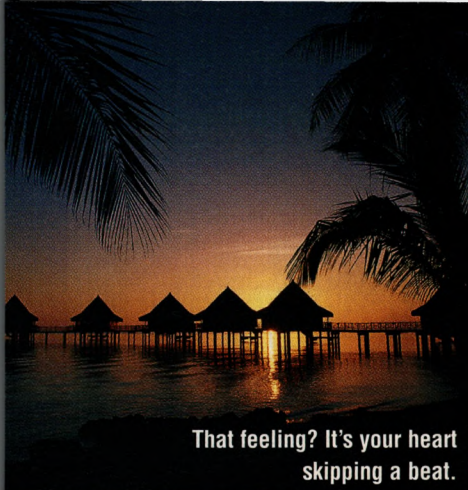
Bora Bora

With its jagged peaks surrounded by a blue lagoon, Bora Bora is perhaps one of the most memorable scenes of tropical perfection and allure imaginable. And, just offshore, more equally spectacular megafauna awaits, this time in the elegant, sweeping shape of Manta Rays, almost guaranteed at a site called Anau. On good days, as many as 10 show up; on bad days, five (generally January to April are the down months for Mantas). But, even in the unlikelihood that you get skunked on the Mantas, there is plenty else—legions of butterflyfish, the ever-present Blacktips, Blackspot Snappers and numerous smaller tropicals.

Rangiroa

At the Bora Bora airport, we said goodbye to our traveling companion *Jean-Pierre*, who had to head home to the endless deadlines that go along with the magazine business. It was now just us girls, and we intended on making the most of it.

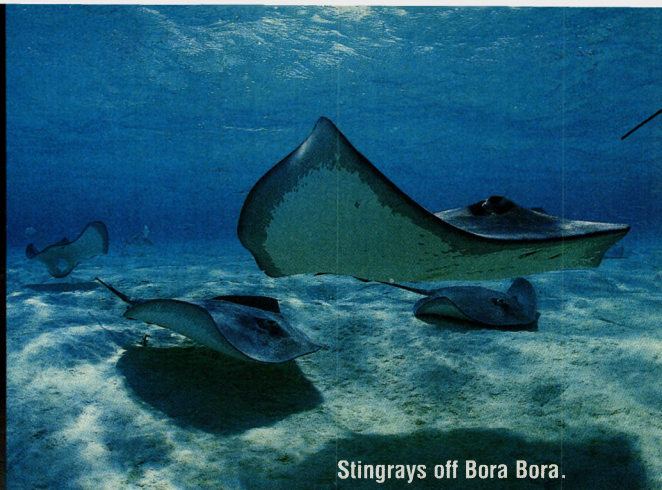
The atoll of Rangiroa is dramatically different from the previous islands we'd



That feeling? It's your heart skipping a beat.



Traditional dancers at the Tahiti Beachcomber.



Stingrays off Bora Bora.

visited. Part of the Tuamotu Archipelago, it is one of the four largest atolls in the world, with 240 coconut palm covered *motu* (small coral islands) ringing an insanely blue inner lagoon, (with the deep blue sea on the outside).

Diving here is notably world-famous for shark action. *Action* being the imperative word. The diving was a fast-paced, high-action drift dive, and we rode the incoming tide through one of the narrow reef passes into the lagoon.

With the help of the dive guide, I hooked into a little cave halfway through the pass. Inside the cave, Nurse Sharks were sleeping. Outside, Blacktip, Whitetip and Gray Sharks, sea turtles and Spotted Eagle Rays were patrolling, all making the current look like a slight breeze. Meanwhile, our bubbles disappeared instantly when we exhaled, and if we turned our masks they would threaten to rip off.

Then we let go of our handholds and we were off, flying through the blue world like the sharks and rays themselves. Too soon, it was time to return to the world above.

Our time in French Polynesia was all too fleeting. Each island deserved its own week, but in the brief time we had we returned with a feeling of exhilaration, warmth, beauty, tranquility and hospitality. But when you visit, be sure to bring romantic companionship, because there is no better place on earth for *passions du amour*. Just ask Captain Bligh's men.

As a footnote, Jean-Pierre tells me he's told his wife "a version" of this story that didn't include overwater bungalows, two women under 25 as traveling companions, or Tahiti, so you'll have to keep things quiet for him. (Men!) 🐟

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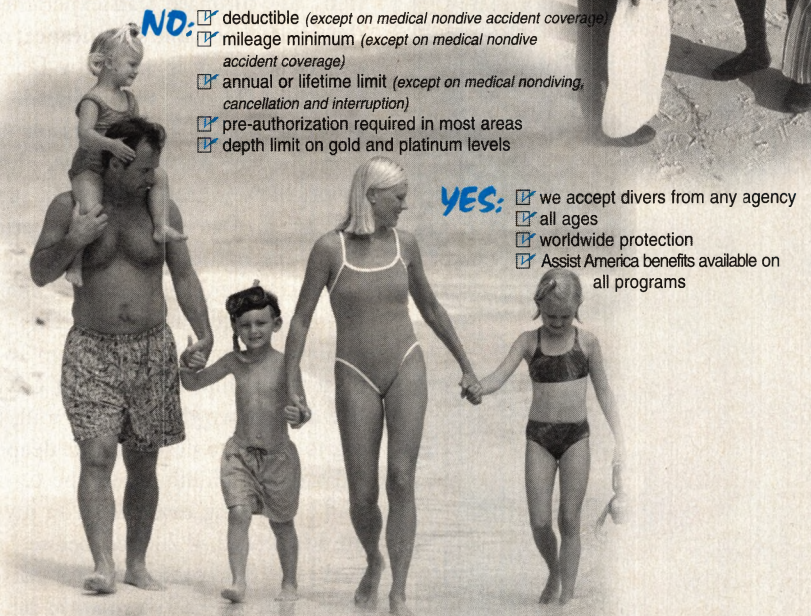
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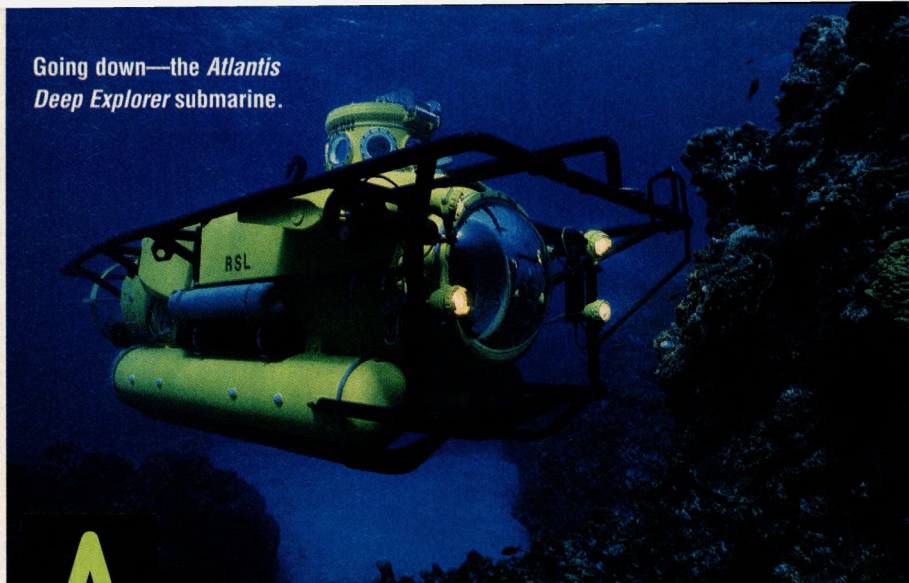
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Going down—the *Atlantis Deep Explorer* submarine.



After more than 20 years of diving the reefs and walls of the Cayman Islands, for my first Cayman dive of the new millennium, I arranged to do the ultimate dive—straight down the Cayman wall to a depth of 1,000 feet.

My dictionary offers several definitions of "ultimate": an experience of the greatest possible significance; or an experience that is final.

My dictionary offers several definitions of "ultimate": an experience of the greatest possible significance; or an experience that is final. In Homer's epic, *The Odyssey*, sirens disguised as beautiful women sang to passing ships from storm-washed rocks, luring sailors to their deaths with their haunting, irresistible song. To experience their supernatural seductiveness, without succumbing to their fatal charms, Ulysses stuffed his men's ears with cotton and had them tie him to the mast of his ship. The sirens of Cayman live deep down the Cayman wall, calling to divers to descend ever deeper.

Dropping giddily down the Cayman wall as a young divemaster on my day off, I had reached 200 feet before I realized I was fast approaching my personal limit. Narcosis had so subdued me that I no longer found the force in my legs to kick against the building momentum of my negative buoyancy. I reached for my power inflator, but barely summoned the strength to press the button. The thick air squealed through the valve like heavy molasses, slowing, then finally reversing my descent. I didn't approach that depth again for more than 20 years,

but I continued to wonder what lay just beyond, in the deep, violet and mysterious world, whose song had nearly lured me away in a moment of finality.

To ensure that I would have an experience that was "of the greatest possible significance," rather than "final," I

knew that I would have to tie myself to the mast, metaphorically speaking, and leave the dive tanks on the dock.

The arrival of Research Submersibles Ltd. in Grand Cayman in 1985, and its subsequent acquisition by Atlantis Submarines, allowed me to find out. Cayman became the first place in the world where deep submarine rides were made available to the public for a reasonable fee, and it remains the only place in the world where deep sub rides are available to the public on a regular basis.

The *Atlantis Deep Explorer* is not rated to descend to the bottom of the Cayman Trench at 24,000 feet. However, it will carry two passengers and a pilot in comfort to a depth of 800 or 1,000 feet, and guarantees sightings of organisms that do not occur in scuba-accessible depths. The 800-foot dive lasts about 50 minutes, while the 1,000-foot dive takes about 70 minutes. In this brief period of time, it is possible to pass through the portals of discovery and enter a forbidden world unknown to almost anyone you will ever meet, where ancient creatures pass their lives with near infinite patience on a time scale that is almost incomprehensible to us.

PHOTOS: DOUG PERRINE

THE ULTIMATE DIVE

DOUG PERRINE takes the big plunge—
1,000 feet down Grand Cayman's wall
in the *Atlantis Deep Explorer*.

Photos by Doug Perrine and Courtney Platt

After a brief and undistinguished career as a Cayman divemaster, I went back to school and studied marine biology. I read of the exploits of William Beebe, descending into the abyss in his bathysphere to observe and record the unimaginable creatures that inhabit that lightless realm. I learned of strange creatures, such as Stalked Crinoids, or sea lilies, that were found on the deep ocean floor. These flower-like echinoderms flourished during the early Paleozoic Era, nearly 500 million years ago, when the first fish were beginning to evolve. They were thought to be extinct until

The Stalked Crinoid.



the late 1800s, when the first of these "living fossils" was dredged up in a deepwater trawl. They are now known to be fairly common in the ocean, but are never encountered by recre-

ational divers as they only occur below 600 feet. Almost indistinguishable from their ancestors hundreds of millions of years old, they seem in no hurry to evolve, or do anything else for that matter. Atlantis sub pilots have seen the same individuals in the same places for 15 years with no indication of reproduction or any sort of turnover. On the rare occasion when one may decide to relocate, it can take a week for it to move 10 feet. They may live for hundreds of years. In school, I dreamed of following in

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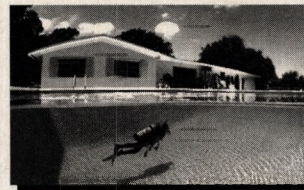
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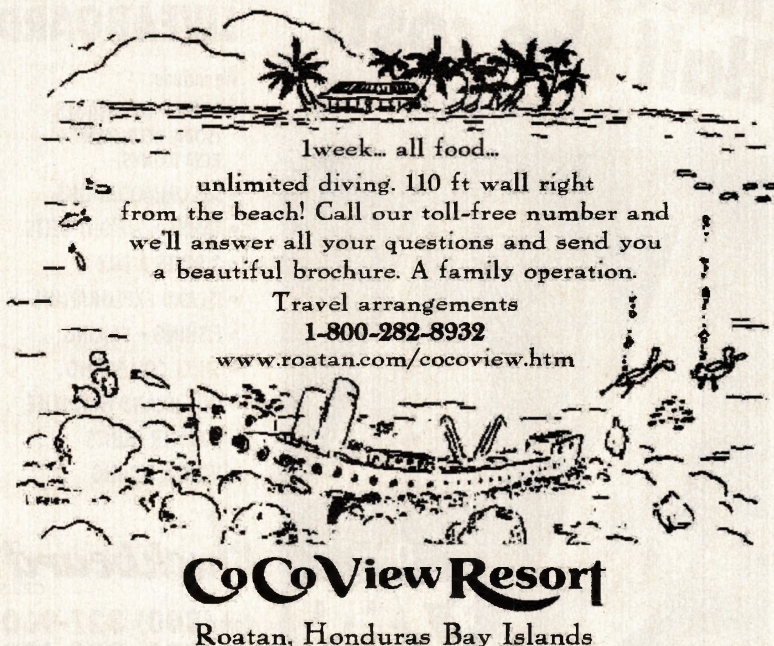
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THE ULTIMATE

Beebe's footsteps and descending into the deep ocean, but I never expected to really do such a thing, and I didn't hope to see a Stalked Crinoid in my lifetime. Gazing at one through the panoramic optical dome viewport on the *Atlantis Deep Explorer*, it seemed so close that I could reach out and touch it.

We saw a variety of other creatures that are rarely seen shallower than 700 feet: porcelain corals, sea dandelions and glass sponges. We saw rare black corals and species that are "unknown to science." We also saw impressive rock formations: giant haystacks and slump blocks. Some of the individual slump blocks are 100 feet tall. All of this is seen with astounding clarity. Below the thermocline at 550 feet, there is zooplankton (such as larval crabs and other floating animals), but no phytoplankton

...the thrill of dropping
1,000 feet into the darkness
of the Cayman Trench and
experiencing sensations and
creatures both felt and seen
by few is at once palpable,
though ultimately ineffable.

(diatoms, single-celled algae and other minute plants). As a result, underwater visibility can approach 300 feet. Even at 1,000 feet, there is a dim purplish glow from the sunlight, but most of the light for viewing is provided by the sub's powerful floodlamps, supplemented by an occasional blue-green flash from some bioluminescent organism.

Did the experience produce all of the ecstasy of a free descent over the wall? Well, no and yes. In a sub, you are clear-headed, rather than addled by the effects of narcosis. But the thrill of dropping 1,000 feet into the darkness of the Cayman Trench and experiencing sensations and creatures both felt and seen by few is at once palpable, though ultimately ineffable.

The dive is conducted, for operational efficiency, by dropping fairly quickly to the maximum depth of 1,000 (or 800) feet, then making a slow ascent back up the wall. Your eyes adjust to the twilight at depth, then throughout the dive the ambient light increases. There's

DIVE

not much color on the deep slope between depths of 500 to 1,000 feet. But once you start up the vertical wall and reach the "sponge belt" (between 200 and 400 feet) the wall blazes with color. Sure, I've seen colorful sponges while diving, but not like this. The sub's lamps



The vibrant sponge belt between 200 and 400 feet deep.

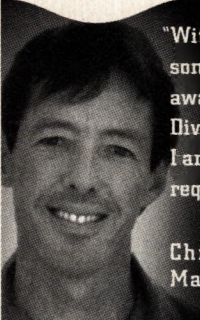
are equivalent to lighting up the wall with maybe 60 dive lights at once.

If you're hoping to see Megamouth Sharks or Sperm Whales eating Giant Squid, you're likely to be disappointed. Our pilot, Courtney Platt, in the course of his 2,500 or so dives, has seen Swordfish, Mantas, Great Hammerheads and a Tiger Shark from the sub, but such encounters are rare. Besides, those are all things that you can see right at the surface, with luck. Other creatures are never seen in the shallows. Slit shells, for example, feed only on deepwater sponges and occur below 300 feet. When they die, the shells sink, rather than washing up on the beach, so they are exceedingly rare in collections (less than 100 in museums and private collections worldwide). A shell is worth \$2,000 to \$4,000. Courtney has spotted several on his sub dives—one of the few people in the world to have ever seen a live specimen.

Life in the deep sea is different and fascinating, but relatively sparse. As you ascend up the wall, you can't help but notice the increase in the amount of life, culminating in the riotous colors of the sponge belt. It's a reminder that a trip to the bottom is a fascinating once-in-a-lifetime experience.

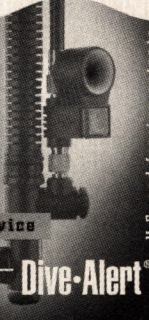
My "ultimate" dive to 1,000 feet helped to satisfy my curiosity about the Cayman depths, but also makes me feel oddly more secure when diving the upper edge of the dropoff. I still hear the siren's call, but having looked her in the face, she no longer seems so dark or dangerous. 🐟

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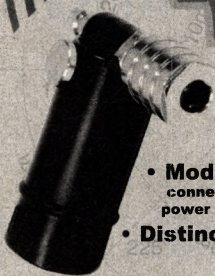
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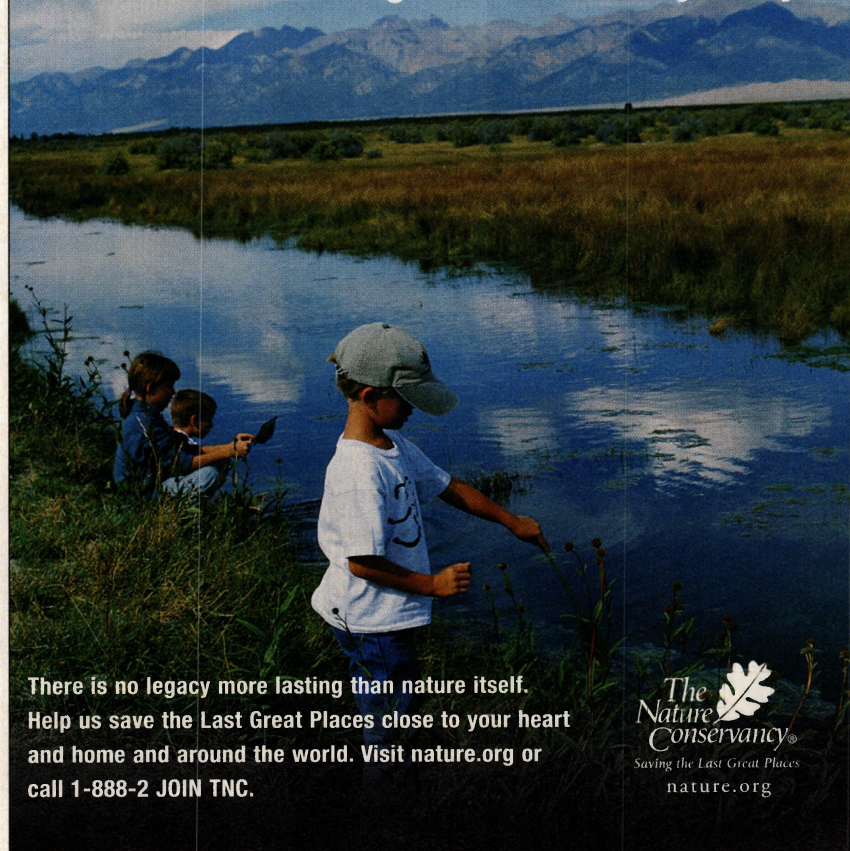
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It's one of life's cruel little ironies that very few divers actually get to experience the full effects of the vibrant colors of the underwater world. After all, it's the kaleidoscope of colors that drew many of us to scuba diving in the first place. So, it's not uncommon to hear a few divers express their disappointment when comparing their actual dives to photos they saw in a brochure. Why? Because too many divers are still diving color blind. However, if you are one of those divers, don't hang up your dive gear yet. Aquacolor Productions has a solution: a dive mask that has scientifically accurate, underwater color-correction.

To understand the significance of the Aquacolor mask, we must first understand the problem. Why do we lose color? Simply put, we lose the ability to see color underwater because of the adverse affects of water on light. This happens in several ways, but the end result is the same: as we lose light underwater, we lose color. As we move down the water column, reds, oranges, purples and yellows often appear brownish, gray or even black. For many divers, the loss and distortion of color often means a less enjoyable and somewhat unsatisfying dive



A Sergeant Major over a lush coral reef, as seen with an Aquacolor mask.

Banishing the Blues

TEXT BY
DAVID
WILKINSON

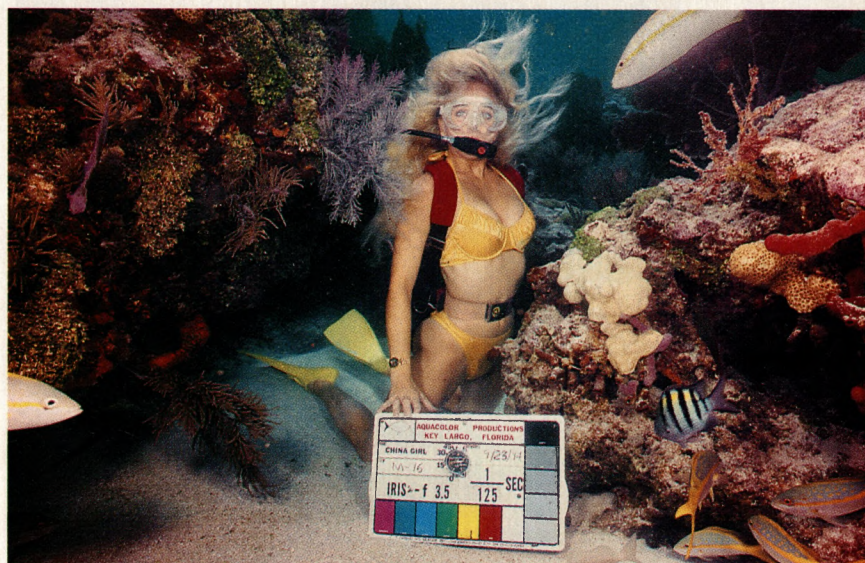
(How many times have you heard someone on the dive boat whine "The brochure picture was much prettier."?)

Well, divers will whine no more. The Aquacolor dive mask, made with the same patented, world-renowned, color-correcting photographic filter formulas that won an international gold medal from the Society of Motion Picture and Television Engineers, corrects the loss and distortion of color underwater, and provides enhanced definition and depth perception when viewing coral reefs and marine life. This ability to see the full range of the color spectrum, as well as the overall improvement in the diver's vision, allows the Aquacolor diver to experience a more satisfying and fulfilling dive.

Aside from the groundbreaking color-correction technology, Aquacolor's dive mask has several other qualities that separate it from standard dive masks. First, the Aquacolor mask is billed as "fogless forever." Those of us that have experienced an Aquacolor dive know this isn't just another scheme dreamed up by an overzealous marketing department—we know it as fact. And, just as impressive as its fogless component are the patented Bimonocular lenses, which add a safety component to the mask by making possible the scientifically accurate correction of the entire color spectrum without severe light loss while the diver's eyes adjust to diminishing light at depth. Then, once on the surface, the lenses serve as 100% UV blocking sunglasses. These extraordinary lenses are also ophthalmologist and optometrist approved for optical excellence. Finally, the sleek look and feel of the top-quality opaque skirts allow for a mask that is fashionable AND comfortable.

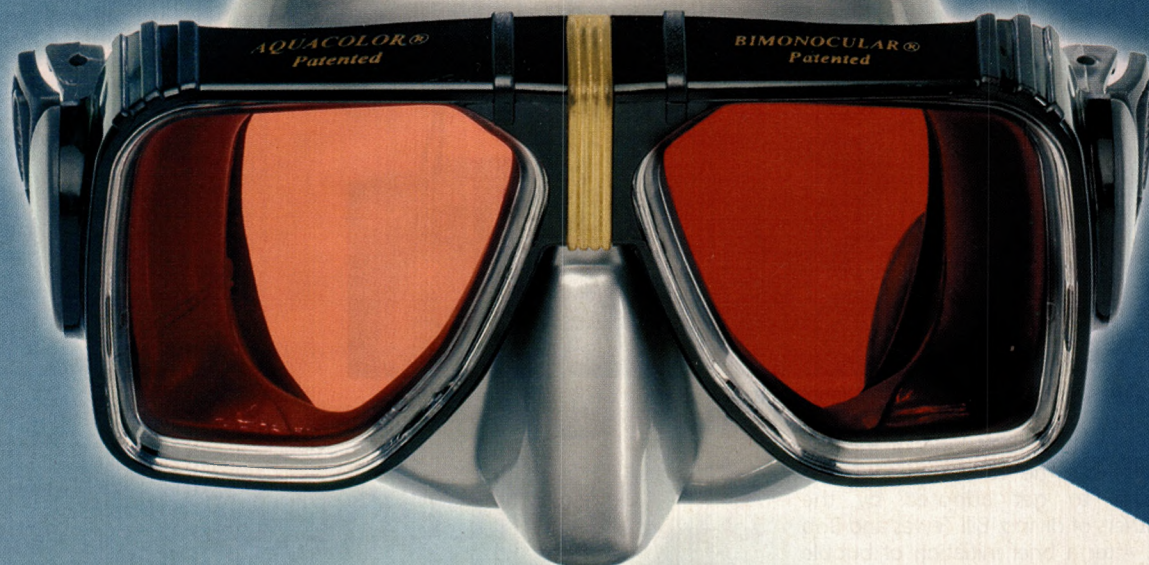
The Aquacolor dive mask is truly a revolutionary piece of dive equipment, one that legitimately turns ordinary recreational dives into extraordinary recreational dives. So, if you are tired of diving color blind, invest in an Aquacolor dive mask and see what you have been missing.

For more information on the Aquacolor dive masks, and for more detailed information on the technology behind the color-correcting fogless lenses, please visit www.aquacolor.com.



Aquacolor's mask allows divers to experience the true colors of the underwater world.

PHOTOS: COURTESY OF AQUACOLOR



STILL DIVING COLOR BLIND?

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BEFORE

"I recently had the opportunity to dive with an Aquacolor® mask in Bonaire and found the results to be astounding." - Jenn Miller

SKIN DIVER
AUG 2001
p.31



Aquacolor® Bimonocular® dive masks are the first and only dive masks in the world to reveal the scientifically true colors of the magnificent underwater world that are otherwise lost. See what you've been missing... brilliant reds, oranges, purples and subtle pastel colors.

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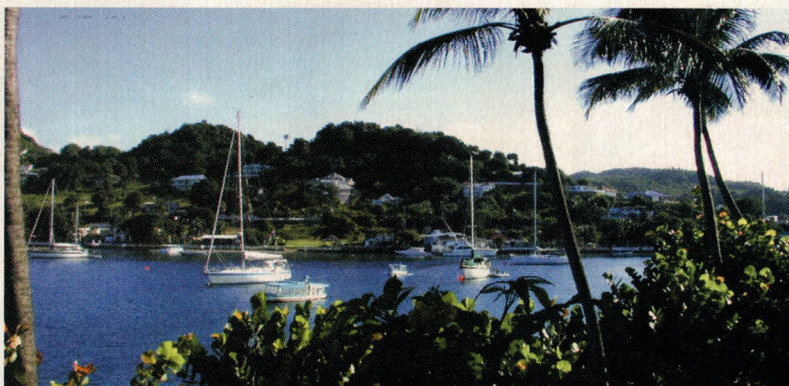
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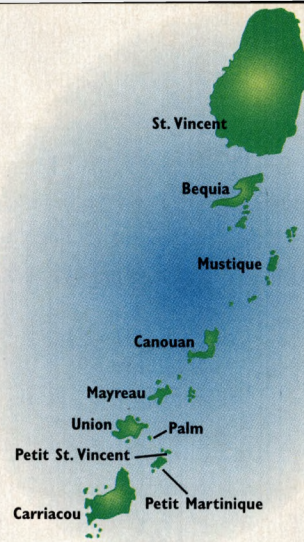


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The view of St. Vincent from Young Island.



TEXT AND
PHOTOGRAPHY BY
FRED GARTH

St. Vincent & The Grenadines

On my first trip to St. Vincent and The Grenadines, some 15 years ago, I was fortunate to get adopted by the Godfathers of diving, Bill Tewes and Bob Sachs. After a brief initiation of bubble blowing followed by a rum punch, code named Rocket Fuel, the diving Dons accepted me. I was in the family. In a recent reunion, I was welcomed back with open arms. I found that the diving was still intriguing and the Rocket Fuel had an even higher octane.

For two decades, Bill (with Dive St. Vincent) and Bob (with Dive Bequia) have developed the SVG diving industry into a well-oiled machine—Bill in St. Vincent and Bob, south, to the island of Bequia where he established Dive Bequia. Today they still thrive and Bill also has a satellite operation in the Tobago Cays which has been run by local Vincencian Glenroy Adams for the past decade.

When you dive with these guys, they seem to know every fish by name. Bill, a native Texan with an impressive gray beard, likes to say SVG is the critter capital of the world. And he backs it up. His underwater family includes frogfish, sea horses, lettuce sea slugs, jawfish, several lobster and crab varieties, eight kinds of shrimp, eels and so on—all of which he zooms in on with a retractable pointer and identifies on his extra large slate. On

his website (www.divestvincent.com) there are 38 critters listed. I saw several that are not mentioned so he's finding more all the time.

Bill also has another popular saying about SVG. "It's like everywhere you've never been." He kept repeating it since he knew I'd be writing about SVG. I still wake up at night spouting the slogan, especially after I've had a few rum punches. Thanks Bill.

The water temperature in the islands is toasty, generally above 80° F. However, it sometimes dips into the high 70° F in the dead of winter—if a place 13 degrees above the equator can have a winter. Viz runs from 50 to 150. In the shallows of the Tobago Cays the viz is generally less due to particulates being stirred up. But in Bequia and St. Vincent, where deep dropoffs are common, the clarity is more likely to be outstanding.

Down in Bequia, Bob's roomy boats frequent many sites along the western coast, accessible in minutes from his shop in Admiralty Bay. Places like Pigeon Island, The Wall and Moon Hole are popular dives. Moon Hole is so named for a bizarre group of cave dwellings an eccentric millionaire dug into the rock face above the dive site. Apparently, people still live there.

The best (and one of the few) shipwrecks is south of Saline Bay at

Mayreau Island. The 140-foot *Purini*, an English gunship, went down in 1918 and rests in 40 feet of sand. It's covered with sponges and corals and thousands of fish. Even the occasional reef shark meanders by.

For snorkeling, the Tobago Cays with Glenroy to guide you is a winning combo. The cays are a cluster of small islands protected by Horseshoe Reef, a shallow fringe of coral which has saved the interior corals and sponges from wave damage. The snorkeling is great for beginners who crave bright colors and sandy bottom only six feet deep. Experienced snorkelers will like it as well for its expansive terrain.

Beyond the Tobago Cays' snorkeling, when conditions are right, you can dive Sail Rock, the exposed tip of an underwater mountain. This is a perfect dive for spotting sharks, eagle rays and giant barracuda as well as healthy stands of elkhorn and antler corals. The Tobago Cays Marine Park has helped to protect the marine habitat and includes all of the Cays and the wreck of the *Purini*.

Besides being a critter Mecca, SVG's reefs have very little pressure from divers. Unlike some of the mainstream Caribbean dive destinations, these islands see only a smattering of divers. The result is a healthy marine ecosystem and great subjects for underwater photographers.

With a variety of excellent diving and topside sights that will surely blow your mind, I'm glad to still be part of the SVG family. Next time we have a clan gathering, I'll let you know. But don't wait on me, check it out for yourself.



A diver interacts with Porkfish on a lush reef.

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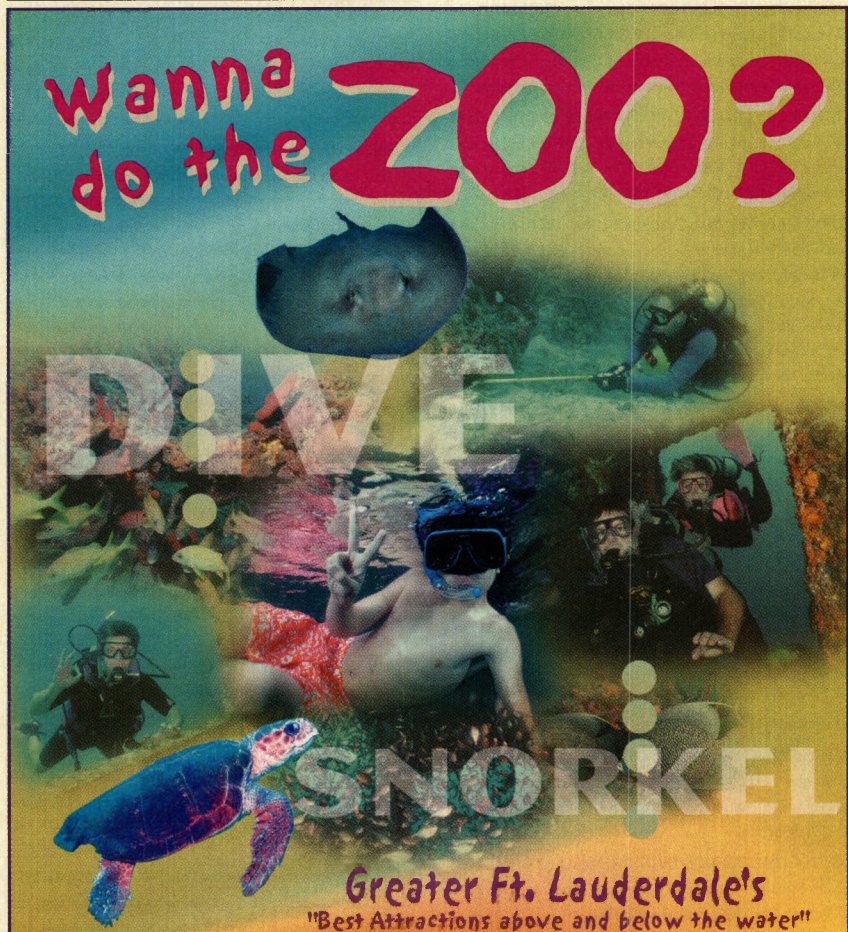
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COMING NEXT MONTH

THE Skin Diver Photo Annual Collector's Edition

PHOTO: FRED CANNON/NAUI

IT WAS A DUSK-TO-NIGHT DIVE—A REC DIVE, NOT A TEK DIVE, AS I'd soon be glad. We'd finished another dive about an hour before; I swapped tanks quickly, hopped in the water and swam out over the reef. My buddies weren't with me, so I decided to drop to the bottom and wait for them there. It was only about 60 feet deep, and the conditions were good.

Dumping the air in my BC, I started down. As I passed 10

it was the dive store's fault. Yeah? On what planet? Yes, the tank was supposed to be full. But who set up the gear and didn't check the air? I did. Who entered the water without doing the pre-dive safety check? I did. Who went into 60 feet of water without a buddy? I did.

The truth is, as a certified diver, I'm responsible

for my safety. I'm supposed to check my air when I set up my gear. I'm supposed to perform pre-dive safety checks. Underwater, I'm responsible for how deep I go, how long I stay, how much air I have, staying within my limits and on a recreational dive, staying with a buddy. The dive store owed me \$3 for an air fill and an apology for missing the dive.

They did not, however, owe me an apology for my near accident when I should've been ashore, dry and irritated, because I'd checked my air and never gotten in the water.

While tek diving, I've had mouthpieces pull off second stages, lost brand-new gauges and had reel jams. Are these the manufacturers' faults? No. I'm responsible for making sure my mouthpieces are on right; that straps aren't going to break; and that I control my reel. On one dive, I almost ran out of intermediate deco gas using double the gas prediction, as I struggled to stay with a teammate who didn't manage his own gas well, then had trouble maintaining a midwater stop. Was that my teammate's

fault? Even then, no! I had no obligation to greatly risk getting me into trouble just because he couldn't dive well.

Not Semantics

This point isn't simply rhetoric. All divers, rec and tek, make mistakes. When we acknowledge our mistakes, we can learn from them. But some divers refuse to acknowledge their responsibilities for insidious errors—the ones that compound a minor problem someone or something else caused, leading to a worse situation or even an accident. Maybe it feels better to blame someone else than to admit a mistake, but

Own Your Mistakes

BY KARL SHREEVES



If you choose to go it alone, you choose to face dive challenges without any assistance. And that could mean trouble.

feet, my regulator pulled hard and then stopped delivering air altogether.

Not good! Fortunately I wasn't any deeper because essentially I was diving alone, and a buddy's alternate wasn't an option. With three strong kicks I rose topside, exhaling as I went. Not surprisingly, my BC wouldn't power inflate, so I puffed it up orally so no one would have to chase my weights.

In my then 17 years of diving, I'd never had my regulator fail like that. And, as it turned out, I hadn't had it fail this time, either. The dive store had put an empty cylinder in with the full ones, and I'd exchanged an empty for an empty.

Question: Whose fault was my near-accident?

Answer: Mine!

Can there be any doubt? Incredibly, I've had people suggest

PHOTO: JESSE CANCELMO



People who refuse responsibility for their own safety have no incentive to change, because they “didn’t do anything wrong.” In other words, if I blame the dive store for running out of air, then it wasn’t my fault for not checking my air, not doing a pre-dive check, and not diving with a buddy. If it wasn’t my fault, next time, I’ll still not check my air, pre-dive check, nor will I dive with a buddy. If it’s

control you. This has two important safety consequences. First, by accepting your responsibility for your safety, you learn from your mistakes, even the insidious ones. Second, and more importantly, you don't take anything for granted (like I took it for granted that my tank was full), so that minor problems you didn't cause become major ones, because you do something stupid.

There's a third consequence of you controlling you, and that's basic honesty. It's not right to blame others for



Obviously, this is nonsense. Rec or tek, you can't control everything, but you can

trouble you bring on yourself. Own up to your mistakes, so you're honest with those you dive with and those you know. And most importantly, so you're honest with yourself. 🐟

Karl Shreeves is VP Technical Development for DSAT and PADI, an active cave diver and a Tek Deep Diver Instructor.

The SEASPACE Scuba Diving, Adventures Sports and Travel Expo will swing into Houston, TX, on June 8 and 9. This year's expo will include IMAX cinematographer Bob Talbot and *Andrea Doria* wreck expert, Gary Gentile. More than 200 booths will be at the Reliant Arena for participants to visit with experts on various topics.

For more information, call (713) 467-6675 or visit www.seaspace.com.

The 15th Scuba Show will take place at the Long Beach Convention Center in Long Beach, CA, on June 29 and 30. The show will be packed with exhibits, a demo tank, sneak peaks at the industry's premier films, seminars, door prizes and a Saturday night party benefiting the Catalina Conservancy Divers.

For admission prices, exhibit hours and general information, call (310) 792-2333 or visit www.saintbrendan.com.

Emmy Award-winning underwater cinematographer and *Skin Diver* contributor Jonathan Bird is teaching comprehensive underwater photography courses in tropical locations throughout 2002 and 2003, beginning in August on the *Fiji Aggressor*. Learn from a pro while diving the best spots on Earth.

For more information, visit www.oceanicresearch.org/jbird.html or e-mail jbird@oceanicresearch.org.

The Cleveland Lakefront State Park, Dive Rescue and Evidence Recovery agency will be hosting a "Rapid Deployment Search and Rescue/Recovery" course September 24 to 27, 2002. The course, originally slated for April, is designed for dive team members and tenders, as well as public safety officials in law enforcement, fire and EMS agencies, but any certified diver is welcome. Fees are \$330/diver and \$130/tender.

For more information, contact Officer Kevin Erskine, Harbor Seals Dive Rescue Team, Cleveland Lakefront State Park at (216) 881-8141, ext. 3024. 

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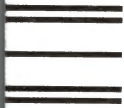
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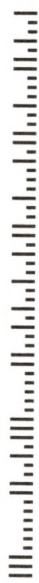
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THE GATHERING



Armed with an U/W camera, Barbi Benton attempts to capture the swirling atmosphere of schooling anthias near a Fijian reef. Insets left: (Upper) Carol Connors, Jean-Michel Cousteau and Barbi Benton cozy up before a dive. (Lower) An Imperial Shrimp rests on a sea cucumber.

Combining work and pleasure into one is a goal many aspire to, but few manage. As I sip the traditional kava offered to me by a grinning Fijian, I look around at the people assembled and decide I am accompanied by the exceptions.

In front of me, Russ Lesser, the president of Body Glove has come to the Jean-Michel Cousteau Fiji Islands Resort, with a bag full of wetsuits and bathing suits for me to photograph. To his left, is famed *Playboy* cover girl Barbi Benton, who has

joined us to fill out the above mentioned wetsuits and bathing suits, and along with her is longtime diving companion and Academy Award-nominated songwriter Carol Connors. Bev Morgan and his daughter Connie, who operate Kirby Morgan Diving Systems, arrive with new full-face masks for Jean-Michel to test for possible use in his upcoming projects. Their diving friend David Crosby, of Crosby, Stills, Nash and Young notoriety, also joins them.

To my right, and next to try the *kava*, is Bob Evans, owner/inventor of Force Fins. Bob comes equipped with some impressive new hydrodynamic fins for Jean-Michel Cousteau to test swim. To Bob's right is James Miller, lawyer and author (I read his latest book, *Final Justice*, in between dives over the week). He is involved in a project to introduce the eco-friendly aspects of the Cousteau Resort to other resorts around the world.

As Jean-Michel crosses his legs to join us on the floor, a curious tingling sensation begins in my lips (the *kava*), and I decide to look more closely for a common denominator among this group.

The next morning, one reason for this gathering becomes clear—the diving.



Diving is a great equalizer—regardless of your background or pedigree, once you descend, you're a diver with a common desire to explore and experience the world's last great frontier. And in this sense, our group was no exception. Each

couldn't wait to wet their gills. Like anyone awaiting a dive, the questions, "What's there?" and "What will I see?" bounced through everyone's head. And when the divemaster announced that we were headed to Namena Island, we practically tumbled over each other to get on the boat.

This small island is surrounded by reefs of intense color with sheer walls and current-swept passes, often visited by huge pelagics. Upon arrival, we find the current is still running and wait 30 minutes to dive closer to slack tide. There's a fine line between too much current to dive and completely slack water. If there is no current, the pelagic life tends to drift out of view into the open ocean.

Our dive guide says it's time, and as I kick into the wall I feel a gentle tug pulling me along. This gentle tug increases as we near the entrance to the pass, but is still workable, even with my camera. The wall slopes down to 60 feet as we enter the pass. Coral-covered pinnacles can be seen further inside, and a huge school of jacks hangs in midwater just at the drop-off. As instructed, I make my way along the wall, staying at the edge where blue water meets reef. Russ and Jim are ahead of me and there are Gray Reef Sharks patrolling right in front of them,

Text and Photography by David Fleetham

THE GATHERING

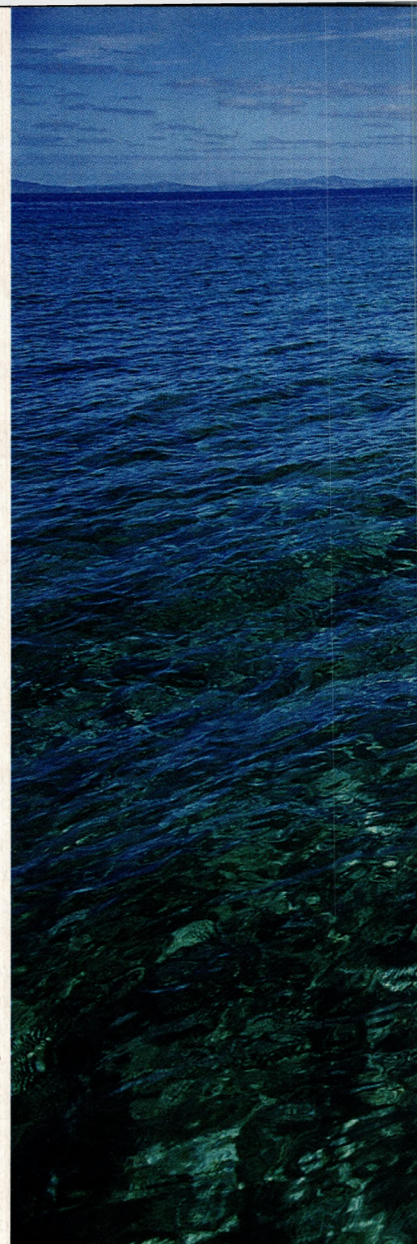
off the lip of the reef. Just beyond the group I find a sand patch to rest on and take in the show. A huge Dogtooth Tuna passes only 10 feet from me, as I see my models peel off and head into the pass. Remembering my mission, I join them and begin shooting. Barbi, an enthusiastic photographer herself, has a Nikonos V in hand and her strobe is already flashing. It takes little time for us to exhaust our film.

Back on the boat, Marie-Lise, the resorts full-time marine biologist, talks about a few of the unusual creatures we have just encountered as we make our way to the island for our surface interval. The island is an unusual stop. Jean-Michel discussed a marine park proposal with the resort on Namena, while we stretched our legs and relaxed on their private beach for lunch. One of

the J-MC Resort guides is from the village that controls the reefs around the island. He has been sent to the Caribbean to see a marine park there firsthand to find what works and bring those ideas back to Fiji.

Our second dive, at a site called Chimneys, encompasses two pinnacles with flat table-like tops. A cloud of anthias pulsates off the upper reef, darting for protection each time a divers' bubbles trickle up the side of the pinnacle from below. With my first camera shot, I look for our dive guide. The second pinnacle lies just beyond the 100-foot visibility, and as Carol points, I see Bob and Russ making their way across a sand patch to the unseen pinnacle. Not far behind them, we begin to make out a large shadow that materializes in the second half of the dive. Bob has found an impossibly large lionfish that he appears to be trying to communicate with. The two stare eyeball to eyeball. With a knowing look, Bob backs away to give us the opportunity for a few photos with Barbi, Carol and Jean-Michel, who take up the lionfish vigil. This "knowing" cooperation I find to be a common thread running throughout the group, and I'm impressed by how smoothly so many large egos are able to, not just get along with each other, but obviously enjoy themselves. Soon, I'm all out of film. I tuck my camera to my side and drift past swaying curtains of bright red and yellow soft coral. *Ah, there's nothing like a Fijian reef.*

With a nonchalance based on sharp, poisonous spines, a lionfish boldly ignores a curious diver.



The following afternoon, I find Jean-Michel up to his knees in the ocean in front of the resort, surrounded by children. The kids stare

Skin Diver GUIDE • FIJI

BEST TIME TO VISIT Tomorrow. Any time it is snowing, sleeting, hailing, too cold, too hot, too windy, raining, a drought, or there are tornado, hurricane or flood warnings, or a plague of some kind where you are. April 14. When houseguests threaten to visit. When the neighbor's dog barks too loud. Any Monday morning. Today. **Topside Climate** Tropical, but it does rain often and can be breezy and cool, so rain gear and a light jacket are a good idea. The rainiest season is from December through February. May through October is the driest time of year. Trade winds bring year-round afternoon and evening sea breezes. **Water Temperature** Typically 76 to 83°F. Experience has taught me that in Fiji I am most comfortable in a wetsuit thicker than 3 mm, especially when making multiple dives in a single day. I usually wear a 3/5/3 (3 mm arms and legs with a 5 mm torso) and a hooded vest. **Exchange Rate** 1.00 (USD) = 2.31 (FJD) Fiji Dollars. The U.S. dollar is accepted at many

major resorts, but it is best to have some local currency when traveling. **Time Difference** Eastern

Standard Time plus 17 hours. When it is 4:00 PM on the East Coast, it is 9:00 AM the next day in Fiji. **CONTACTS** Fiji

Visitors Bureau www.bulafiji.com (310) 568-1616 • Fiji Dive Operators Association (FDOA) www.fijidive.com • Air Fiji (877) 247-

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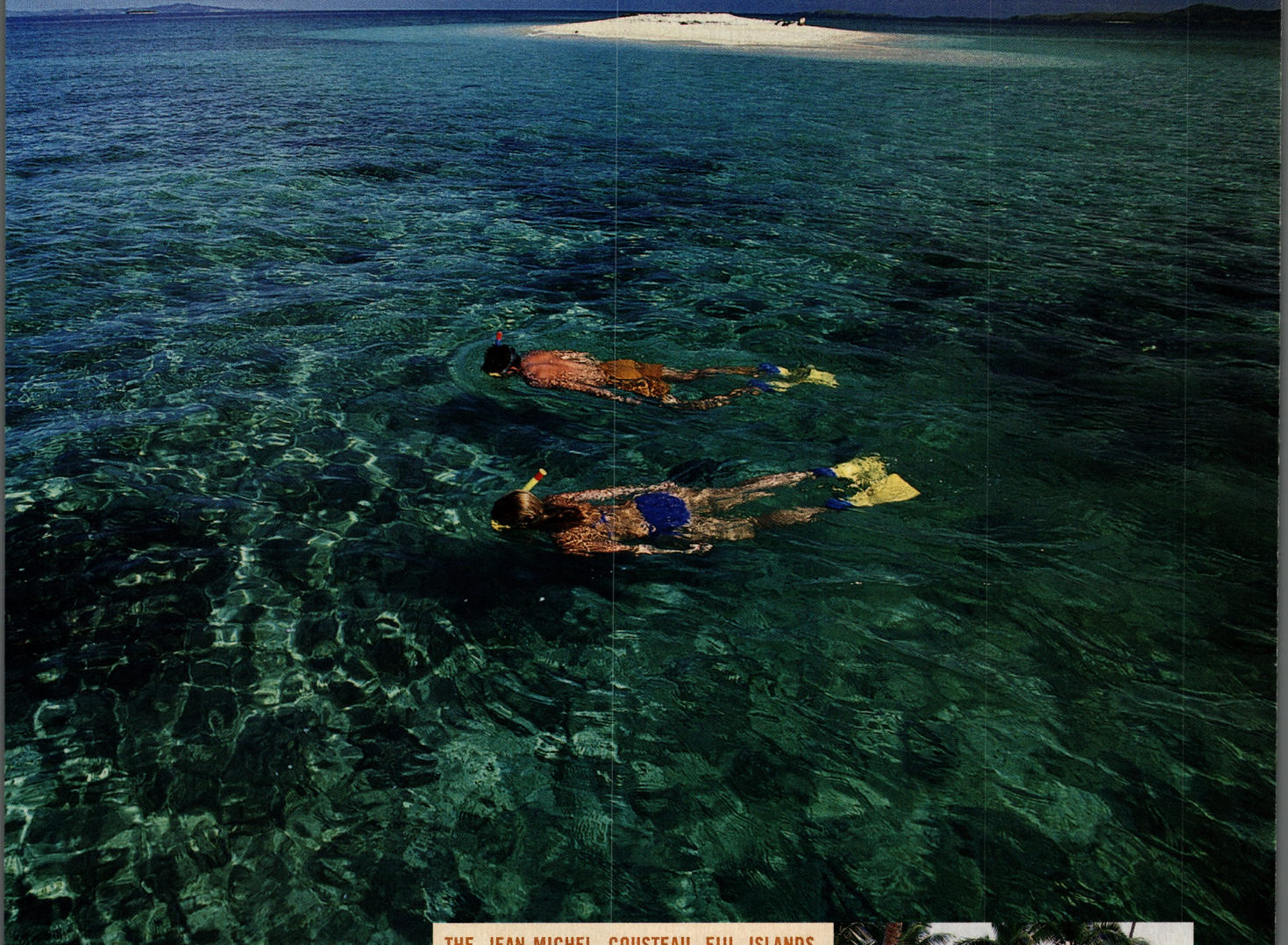
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AUSTRALIA

A couple enjoys a little solitude while snorkeling off a tiny private sand island. Below: Jean-Michel shares the wonders of starfish with some young guests.



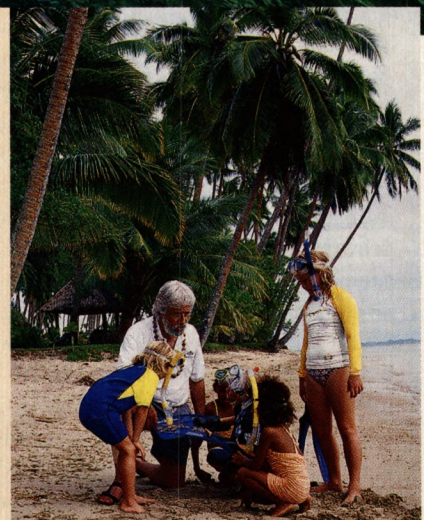
intently as J-MC attempts to explain the importance of a starfish. The resort is one of the most family friendly environments that I have encountered. A battalion of Fijian nannies are available for the very young and Camp Bula, beside the resort's tennis courts, takes care of all ages, and includes activities organized by a naturalist to educate and entertain at the same time. There is even an activity passport to be stamped upon completion of various programs.

After our final dinner, the group retired to the bar for a spontaneous "talent night" organized by Barbi and Carol who begin with a duet. We move onto skits and stories, and I begin to feel like I've been sucked back through time to summer camp, then I realize, *that's it!*—the common denominator.

THE JEAN-MICHEL COUSTEAU FIJI ISLANDS

RESORT is a unique haven, boasting no televisions, telephones or air-conditioning in the 25 private, spacious, authentic Fijian-style *bures* (pronounced boo-rays) with private decks, which dot the 17-acre enclave on Savusavu Bay, on the island of Vini Levu. The resort is past the halfway mark and on track in a 10-year plan to show that a resort can be financially viable and at the same time environmentally friendly. Once a flourishing coconut plantation, management works with the nearby villages to enhance the lives of the natives and, at the same time, bring the Fijian way of life to the visitors at the resort. The villages take turns putting on a *meke* (Fijian dance/festival) once a week, with *kava* for anyone who would like to enjoy the traditional drink and ceremony.

Fiji instills a youthful fascination and excitement with life and the underwater world. A wide-eyed need to discover, share and experience something new wells up from the heartbeat of



these magical islands. And, this gathering of stars had fallen under its relentless spell. 🐟

Special thanks to Air New Zealand and Body Glove Wetsuits.

A look at those who helped define diving and continue to push it forward.

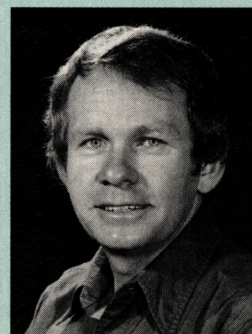
Scuba Equipment Manufacturers

Diving Revolutionary: Bob Hollis

EVER SINCE HE SURFACED FROM HIS FIRST SCUBA DIVE MORE THAN 40 YEARS ago, Bob Hollis has looked for ways to make diving better and more enjoyable. His innovative ideas led to the development of early underwater camera equipment in the 1960s, to the research and development of prototype dive computers in the 1980s. As founder of Oceanic, Bob took his knowledge of dive retailing, diving experience and manufacturing to create a line of computer products that has helped revolutionize diving forever. With the advancements of modern technology, diving is safer and more enjoyable than ever due to ideas and insights that Bob Hollis dreamed about decades ago.

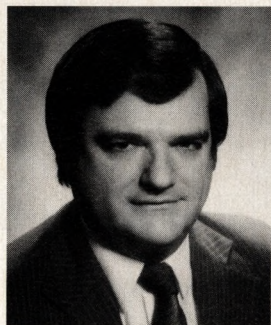
An avid diver who enjoys research and adventure, Hollis is among a select few who have logged time on the famous *Andrea Doria* wreck. In fact, few have logged more dives or spent more time on this famous wreck. Hollis was part of several production teams filming on the *Andrea Doria*, and in 1974, helped develop the only portable saturation system and used it to stay at 240 feet for seven days.

Recognized with the DEMA Reaching Out Award in 2000, Hollis was inducted into the Recreational Scuba Diving Hall of Fame in Grand Cayman this past January. 🐟



Keeping Divers Dry: Dick Long

IN 1960, DICK LONG BECAME A FOUNDING INSTRUCTOR with NAUI and the rest is diving history. As president and CEO of Diving Unlimited International (DUI)



since 1963, Long has watched the growth and development of products aimed at protecting people who work or play in challenging aquatic environments. As part of the U.S. Navy Research and Development team, he experimented with exposure suit technology in more depth, which led to the creation of

many original and useful diving products. His hot water-heated diving suit is still considered one of the industry's unique innovations. Through DUI, the growth of drysuit diving and related technologies continues to change the face of diving.

Long also helped to spearhead the highly successful sinking of the HMS *Yukon* near San Diego in 1999. The vessel has developed into an artificial reef for marine habitat, is a haven for scientific and educational research, and is a model for government/tourism cooperation throughout the world. The *Yukon* now sits at 100 feet off Mission Bay and hosts thousands of dive visitors each year.

A member of the NAUI Hall of Fame, Long has served as a member of DEMA, the Scuba Diving Resource Group and as President of the San Diego Oceans Foundation. 🐟

The Betsy Royal Treatment

BETSY ROYAL'S DIVING CAREER HAS TAKEN HER FROM the shores of New England night diving for lobsters to the Caribbean and back to the East Coast, where today she serves as the VP of Sales and Marketing for Mares.

A passionate diver who has worked in the industry for more than 20 years, Betsy began her career as the Northeast Advertising manager for *Skin Diver* during the early 1980s. She then went to work for Henderson Aquatics, where she became one of the first women to achieve executive status in a major dive equipment manufacturing corporation. In 1996, Betsy took on her current position at Mares. Her experience in dive media and manufacturing continues to give her and those that work around her the edge in a competitive dive market. Currently, Mares holds a leadership position in the recreational scuba diving world.

Betsy served two terms on the Board of Directors for the Diving Equipment Marketing Association (DEMA), and in 2000, was elected to the Women Divers Hall of Fame (WDHOF). Hillary Vidars, founder of WDHOF, said upon Betsy's induction that Betsy "possesses the assets of a true leader and role model—talent, drive, dedication and excellent people skills." Today, she continues to support the diving community by helping to sponsor educational programs, record-breaking free-diving athletes and other initiatives designed to grow the scuba diving industry. 🐟



PHOTOS: (HOLLIS & LONG) SDM ARCHIVES; (ROYAL) COURTESY BETSY ROYAL

Each month *Skin Diver* looks back through its pages in search of those little nuggets of yesteryear—old equipment, trends of the time, new discoveries—that echo the times and may surprise or shock us. It's good to know your roots and how discoveries of old have helped shape diving of today.

1969

Climb a Tree, Catch a Fish



When it comes to midwestern divers the term “land-locked” comes to mind, but the friendly people of the “Show Me” state are far from it. In the spring of 1969, *SD* Editor Bill Barada road-tripped to the southwest corner of Missouri and landed at Table Rock Lake, in the heart of the Ozarks. At 58 miles long, 8.5 miles wide and with 857 miles of incredible shoreline, Table Rock is one of the largest man-made lakes in the world. A thick forest of underwater trees combined sport diving with tree climbing, making for a peculiar practice of Carp hunting. On Barada's trip, each diver descended and waited in tree tops for an unsuspecting Carp to pass. On one trip, two 20-pound Carp were successfully speared.

Of course, the tree-top hunting has ceased, but the promise of clear, warm water continues to bring summer vacationers from neighboring states. 🐟



1961

Debunking the Deep

In February 1961, the *Skin Diver* staff reported the beginnings of technical diving. It began in late 1959 with a young swiss mathematician named Hannes—a *Good Will Hunting* type of math whiz—and a question: Why can't divers go deeper than 200 feet without danger? After successfully diving to 400 feet and ascending DCS-free, Hannes befriended Dr. Albert Buhlmann. Together they theorized that a diver could reach greater depths and perform more rapid ascents by breathing a controlled mixture of different gases. With the help of an IBM 650 computer, the scientists calculated more than 250,000 four-figure numbers to compile 400 new decompression tables, covering depths to 1,312 feet. Another dive to 510 feet was made in four minutes; the ascent lasted only 30 minutes. The previous deco tables specified a 5 to 7 hour ascent on a dive to that depth. Hannes was debunking the tables one depth at a time. Finally, the French Naval authorities got wind of Hannes and, at the Toulon Naval Base, he reached record depth of 820 feet—descent: 10 minutes; ascent: 49. 🐟



1955



Inflated Egos and Scuba

Flipping through the August 1955 *Skin Diver*, an article called “Inflated Egos and Scuba” caught my attention. I had to read it twice and even had a colleague read it to make sure I was understanding the topic and what the author was saying. Turns out, I was right on. This article, taken from “The Seafarer,” discusses in great depth a problem and solution for women bearing “falsies”—small balloon-type cushions used to enhance a woman's...errrr...decolletage, if you will. Problem: “...A girl starting at sea level would tend to find herself twice as chesty in an airplane flying at 18,000 feet and even at 8,000 feet she would become 1 and 1/3 as chesty!” Solution: “...Some sort of constant volume device...each girl so equipped should carry a small portable scuba with her...put in some relatively inconspicuous small carrying case [and the falsies] would remain inflated to a constant volume. Who would have thought of the scuba as a cosmetic device!” *Brilliant.* 🐟

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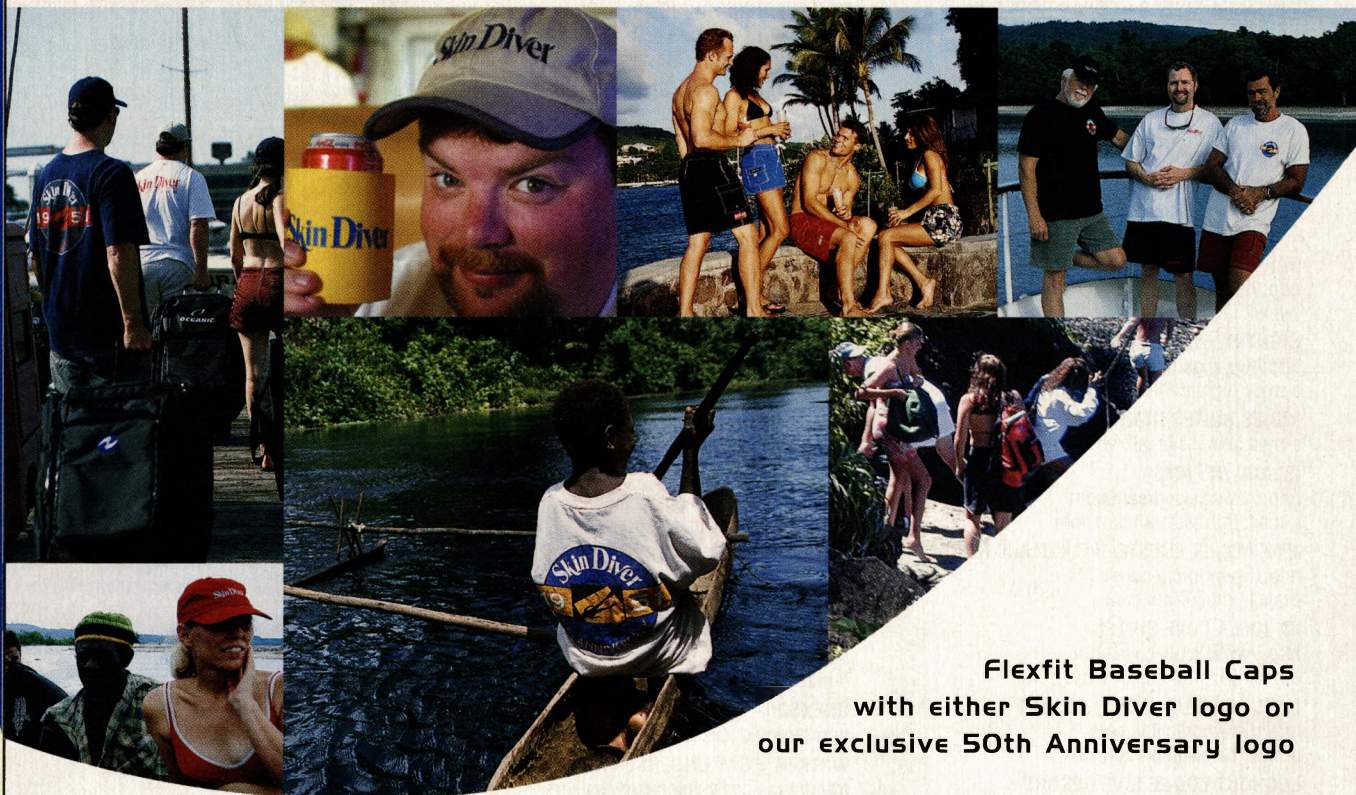
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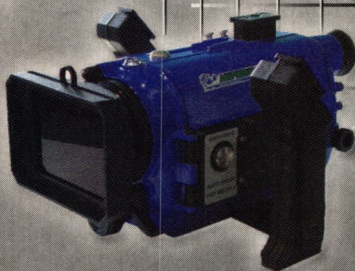
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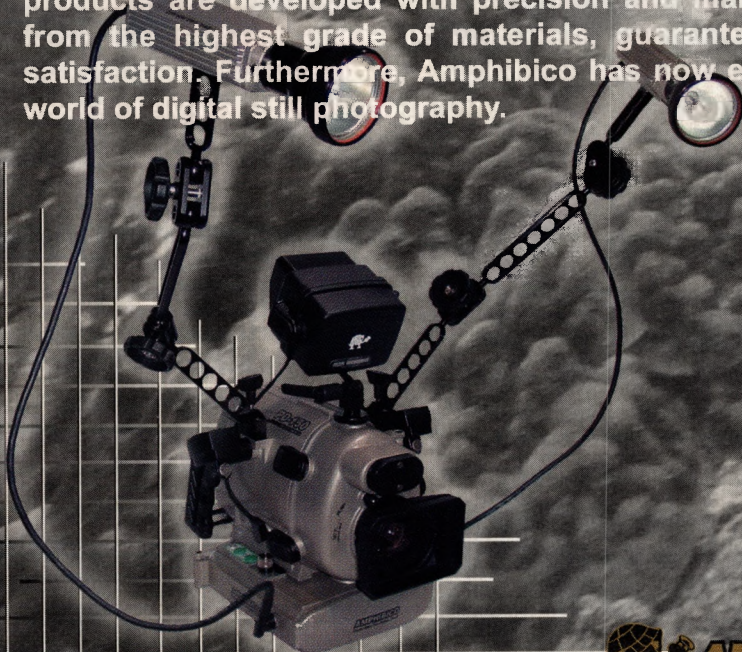
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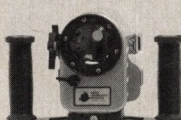
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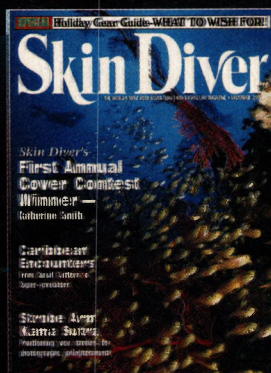
To enter, submit each photograph with an entry fee of \$5 (check or money order). Multiple entries will be accepted. Each image submitted must be accompanied with an entry fee. Clearly mark each slide with location information, and with name and address. Vertical, 35 mm slides or medium format transparencies are preferred. DEADLINE FOR ENTRIES IS JULY 15, 2002. Send to: Skin Diver Cover Contest, Attn: Editor, 6420 Wilshire Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90048-5515

Contest open to photographers of all levels. The editors of *Skin Diver* will select five finalist images. These images will be posted on *Skin Diver* Online by August 1, 2002, and *Skin Diver* readers will help select the winner. Runner-up photos will be featured in the December 2002 issue.

*For magazines mailed to subscribers only. Grand prize will include a first-time use payment of \$800. Each submission becomes property of *Skin Diver* magazine (photos will not be returned). *Skin Diver* is not responsible for lost or damaged submissions. Entries submitted without entry fee will be disqualified.

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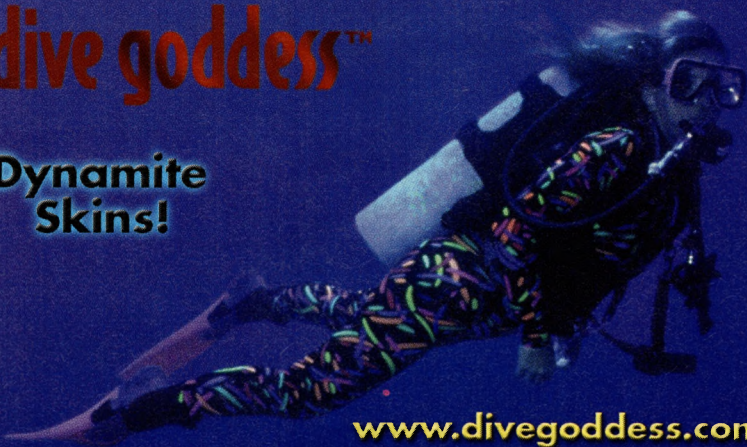
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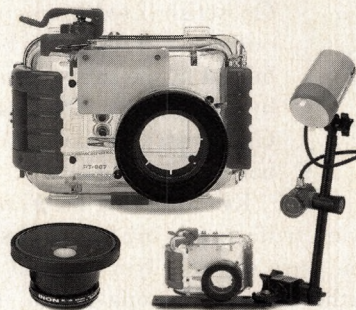
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Skin Diver

MARKETPLACE

Every day, divers are humbled by the sheer exhilaration of encountering marine life. From curious Calico Bass and playful dolphins, to sleek sharks and heart-stopping Humpback Whales—to be in their midst is the “stuff” of diving. So, each month, *Skin Diver* guest writers will relive their unique moments under the sea, leaving us at the edge of our seats and aching to get back in the water.

ONE OF MY MORE MEMORABLE ENCOUNTERS was with a Goosefish, or Angler, on the wreck of the *Tarantula*. These bottomdwellers are commonly found near sunken ships that have been transformed into living reefs by populations of sea anemones, hydroids and mussels—a Goosefish’s potential lunch. Although a Goosefish (*Lophias americanus*) can easily camouflage its broad, flat body by lying partially buried in the sand, leaving little to be noticed by passersby, a diver can occasionally spot a Goosefish’s saucer-like eyes poking from beneath their hideaway.

Knowing that the *Tarantula* was popular for spying artifacts and big lobster, I scanned the sandy bottom. Sure enough, lying in 120 feet of water off the southern coast of Long Island, I found a 4-foot-long

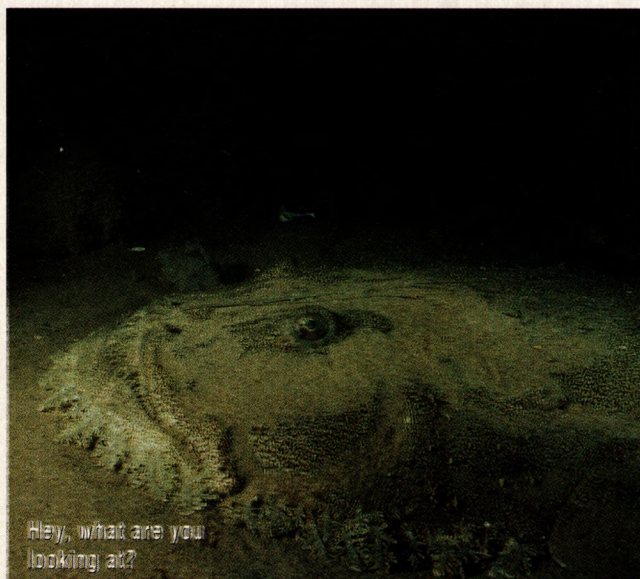
You want some of this? I instantly began an uneasy breathing cycle.

Having both hands full of photo gear and only about 5 feet between us, I wondered how my insurance claim would go over if I claimed “loss by ingestion.” A couple of feet later, it stopped abruptly and opened its mouth wide—about 3 feet wide—then turned to the left, continuously circling in front of me. Although, it looked very strange—like a kite on a string. Turns out the reason for its rotten mood and circular flight pattern was a hook caught in the back of its throat. A piece of monofilament line ran from its mouth and effectively tied the animal to the wreck.

I shot off a few frames (*yeah, I know...but when opportunity knocks...*). And after two or three passes, it was time to do the right thing and cut it free. I cut the line at a safe distance, and once free, the Goosefish slowly swam away.

However, there was a small problem. More than one hook happened to be attached to the line! That one had just

Hooked on a Goosefish



Hey, what are you looking at?



Notice the monofilament line and hook running outside its 3-foot-wide mouth.

Goosefish not 20 feet from the anchorline. It must have just settled down, because there was no sand on top of it. Swimming slowly and dropping low to the bottom, I made my approach from the side. (*Note: Never come charging at them from the front; occasionally they charge right back and are not afraid to defend their turf*) This Goosefish was definitely not sociable. It immediately rose from the bottom, turned in my direction, as if to say,

attached to the arm of my drysuit. In sole possession of a living, angry propulsion unit and with a new vent hole for the suit, it was time for a little quick action. Fortunately, she ignored the drag created by pulling me through the water. It only took a few seconds, but it felt like forever. Cutting the second hook free allowed the animal to swim unhindered. The Goosefish headed south, while I retreated to the boat to repair my suit. 🐟 —BY PETE NAWROCKY

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